## Handout 4: Introduction to DPL+GQ

## Seminar in Semantics: Decomposing Quantification (Fall 2008)

## 1. Dynamic Predicate Logic (DPL)

1. $\mathrm{A}^{x}$ house-elf fell in love with $\mathrm{a}^{x^{\prime}}$ witch.
2. $\mathrm{He}_{x}$ bought her ${ }_{x^{\prime}}$ an $^{x^{\prime \prime}}$ alligator purse.
3. Every farmer who owns $\mathrm{a}^{x}$ donkey beats $\mathrm{it}_{x}$.
4. Every house-elf who falls in love with $\mathrm{a}^{x}$ witch buys her $_{x} \mathrm{an}^{x^{\prime}}$ alligator purse
5. If a ${ }^{x}$ farmer owns $\mathrm{a}^{x^{\prime}}$ donkey, he ${ }_{x}$ beats $\mathrm{it}_{x^{\prime}}$.
6. If $\mathrm{a}^{x}$ house-elf falls in love with $\mathrm{a}^{x^{\prime}}$ witch, he $\mathrm{e}_{x}$ buys $_{\operatorname{her}_{x^{\prime}}} \mathrm{an}^{x^{\prime \prime}}$ alligator purse.

The particular version of dynamic semantics we look at is (based on) DPL (Groenendijk \& Stokhof 1991) - and for three reasons:

- the syntax of the system is a fairly close variant of the familiar syntax of classical first-order logic; this enables us to focus on what is really new, namely the semantics;
-     - the semantics of DPL is minimally different from the standard Tarskian semantics for firstorder logic: instead of interpreting a formula as a set of variable assignments (i.e., the set of variable assignments that satisfy the formula in the given model), we interpret it as a binary relation between assignments ${ }^{1}$; moreover, this minimal semantic modification encodes in a transparent way the core dynamic idea that meaning is not merely truth-conditional content, but context change potential;
- third, just as classical predicate logic can be straightforwardly generalized to static type logic, DPL can be easily generalized to a dynamic version of type logic, which is what Muskens' Compositional DRT is; and CDRT enables us to introduce compositionality at the sub-sentential/sub-clausal level in the tradition of Montague semantics.

[^0]Also, DPL is able to translate the donkey sentences in (3) through (6) above compositionally, with sentences / clauses as the building blocks (i.e., basically, as compositional as one can get in first-order logic).

Sentences (3) and (5) above are translated as shown in (7) and (8) below and, when interpreted dynamically, the translations capture the intuitively correct truth-conditions.
7. $\forall x(\operatorname{farmer}(x) \wedge \exists y(\operatorname{donkey}(y) \wedge o w n(x, y)) \rightarrow \operatorname{beat}(x, y))$
8. $\exists x(\operatorname{farmer}(x) \wedge \exists y(\operatorname{donkey}(y) \wedge o w n(x, y))) \rightarrow \operatorname{beat}(x, y)$

Consider (7) first:

- every is translated as universal quantification plus implication and the indefinite as existential quantification plus conjunction
- the syntactic scope of the existential quantification is 'local' (restricted to the antecedent of the implication), but it does semantically bind the occurrence of the variable $y$ in the consequent.

Similarly, in (8):

- the conditional is translated as implication and the indefinites are translated as existentials plus conjunction, again with syntactically 'local' but semantically 'non-local' scope.

DPL has two crucial properties that enable it to provide compositional translations for donkey sentences - the equivalences in (9) and (10) below valid.
9. $\exists x(\phi) \wedge \psi \Leftrightarrow \exists x(\phi \wedge \psi)^{2}$
10. $\exists x(\phi) \rightarrow \psi \Leftrightarrow \forall x(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$

## So:

- indefinites can semantically bind outside their syntactic scope and indefinitely to the right
- in combination with the definition of dynamic implication, this allows them to scope out of the antecedent and universally bind in the consequent of the implication.


### 1.1. Definitions and Abbreviations

The 'official' definition of a well-formed formula (wff) of DPL is easily recoverable on the basis of the definition of the interpretation function $\|\cdot\|$ in (11) below - the syntax is therefore not provided
11. Dynamic Predicate Logic (DPL). The definition of the DPL interpretation function $\|\phi\|_{D P L}{ }^{\boldsymbol{M}}$ relative to a standard first-order model $\boldsymbol{M}=\left\langle\boldsymbol{D}^{\boldsymbol{M}}, \boldsymbol{I}^{\boldsymbol{M}}\right\rangle$, where $\boldsymbol{D}$ is the domain of entities and $\boldsymbol{I}$ is the interpretation function which assigns to each $n$-place relation ' $R$ ' a

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[^0]:    Alternatively, and in certain respects equivalently, we can think of the interpretation of a formula as a function taking as argument a set of assignments and returning another set of assignments - this is the view underlying FCS, for example. However, in both cases the update is defined pointwise - and a relational view of update reflects this more directly. There are other differences between FCS and DPL (e.g., using partial and total assignments respectively and disallowing vs. allowing reassignment) - see the dynamic cube in Krahmer (1998): 59 for an overview. In particular, the fact that DPL (and CDRT) allows reassignment will be an essential ingredient in accounting for the interaction between anaphora and generalized conjunction (see section $\mathbf{5}$ of Chapter 1 below). The "destructive reassignment" or "downdate problem" associated with reassignment can be solved using stacks 'referent systems': see Nouwen (2003) for a recent discussion and Bittner (2006) for a set of 'stack' axioms for dynamic type logic.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ The symbol ' $\Leftrightarrow$ ' should be interpreted as requiring the identity of the semantic value of two formulas.

