LING 239 Semantics Seminar:
Varieties of De Se Expressions
Syllabus (as of: September 27, 2006)

INSTRUCTOR:
Pranav Anand
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Office hours: T 14.00-16.00

LOGISTICS:
Spatiotemporal: MW 14.00-15.45, The Cave
Website: people.ucsc.edu/~panand/Ling239/ (updates soon!)
Prerequisites: Semantics A & B, their equivalents, or instructor’s permission.
Class rescheduling: There will be no class on Monday, October 30th. Available Fridays are:
October 6th, 13th, and 20th; November 3rd.

THE PLAN
The aim of the course is to cover in some detail the philosophical and linguistic literature surrounding
de se ascriptions. Some of our data will be drawn from the usual suspects: obligatory control, long-distance
anaphora, shifted indexicals, logophors, and the tense of CP complements. We will also consider data from
dream report pronouns, epistemic modals, predicates of personal taste, generic pronouns, direct discourse,
and free indirect discourse. We will probe the similarities and differences of these constructions, using them to
diagnose to what extent they are the result of common mechanisms. This topic will also give us opportunity
to delve into the mechanisms of de re ascription and issues of first-personal knowledge.

REQUIREMENTS
Students are expected to read all assigned readings and participate in class discussions. There are four
formal requirements: a) an in-class presentation on one of the assigned readings, b) a final paper on a topic
of the student’s choosing related to the issues raised in the seminar, c) a short presentation of the student’s
research during Finals Week (Dec. 4th or 6th), and d) homework. As for the last item, I will (occasionally,
fitfully) assign “homework” problems, often questions I would like you to think about for the following class
and which we will discuss. I do not plan on there being any turned-in assignments, and if I do assign any,
they will most likely be of a computational nature.
TOPICAL OUTLINE

1  The mechanics of de re ascription
1.1  Tripartite theories

1.2  Acquaintance Relations

1.3  Bipartite theories

2  Two puzzles for de re reductionism
2.1  Quantificational puzzle

2.2  Dream report puzzle

3  Fitting in tense and aspect
3.1  Temporal de re/de se

3.2  The contribution of attitude verbs and modals

3.3  Puzzles regarding aspectual de re
Hacquard (2006)

4  Quotation
4.1  Direct discourse
Potts (2005), Geurts and Maier (2005), Cummins (2005), Cappelen and Lepore (2005), Reimer (2005), Recanati (2000; 2001)

4.2  Free Indirect discourse
5 De se specific pronominals

5.1 Shifted indexicals

5.2 Logophors

5.3 Long-distance reflexives

5.4 Intensive pronouns

6 Implicit de se arguments

6.1 Generics/impersonals

6.2 Predicates of Personal Taste

6.3 Epistemic Modals

7 Some dissent
Safir (2005), Higginbotham (2003; 1992)

8 Immunity to Error through misidentification

Important papers to be added somewhere
Castañeda (1966), Kaplan (1989), Bittner (to appear)

References


Macfarlane, John. 2006. Epistemic Modals are Assessment-Sensitive.


