RAIS Discussion: Genericity / Bridging

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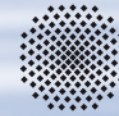
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What types of generic expressions exist?
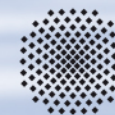
We restricted the inventory to English:

(1) Dogs bark.

(2) The dog has evolved from the Jackal.

(3) A dog knows when it is time for his walk.

Every dog …

Generic

 (i) reference to a kind
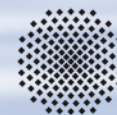
(ii) general quantification

(Reference: Carlson 1977)

Generics as antecedents

G: generic; E: episodic

First	Re-occurrence	
dogs	they$_{G/E}$	*it$_{G/E}$ / dogs
the dog	they$_{G/?E}$	it$_{G/*E}$ / one$_E$
a dog	they$_{G/*E}$	it$_{G/*E}$ (modal context?)

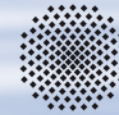(1) A dog knows when it's time to eat. They were very punctual today.

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Generics as anaphors?

(1) Dogs evolved from the Jackal. That's why I love dogs.

(2) Dogs evolved from the Jackal. That's why I hate them.

(3) I love my dog. Dogs are such nice animals.

(4) I don't like workshops. Discussions last forever.

Unspecifics

(1) If a table is large, lots of thing can be put on it. But if a table is small nothing can be put on it.

(2) I'll go to the animal shelter. I want to buy a dog. I'll name him Fido.

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Working definitions

- Anaphoricity
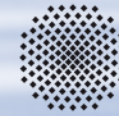
  Referential dependency on a previously mentioned entity in the text
  OR
  Salient semantic relation which is not given in the syntax.

- Coreference

  If there is an identity relation then coreference
  otherwise (most of the time) bridging

Problem:
John was murdered yesterday. A knife/The knife was found next to him.

Problem:

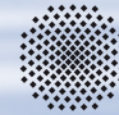in a coherent text everything is related somehow

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Annotation of bridging (Katja, Michael, Yufang)

Anaphoricity

Referential dependency on a previously mentioned entity in the text

Test: Does the sentence mean the same with / without context?

(1) I went to my car. A tire was flat.   => anaphoric (tire, car)

(2) I went to my car. I found a tire there. => not anaphoric

(3) I love my dog. Dogs are such nice animals. => not anaphoric

(4) I don't like workshops. Discussions last forever. => anaphoric

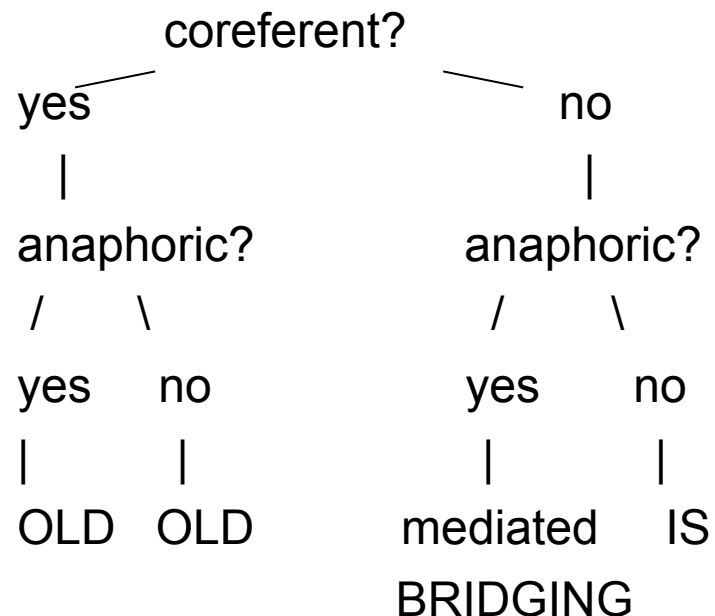March 24, 2013

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Annotation: anaphoricity, coreference (Malvina, Dag)

3-layered annotation:

- corefence

- anaphoricity

- information status

Inherit information
from other layers!

Bridging/Bound
anaphora:
anaphorically linked
but not
coreferential
=> subclassification
needed

```
              coreferent?
yes                         no
 |                           |
anaphoric?              anaphoric?
 /     \                  /     \
yes    no               yes     no
 |      |                 |      |
OLD    OLD            mediated    IS

                     BRIDGING

                       …
```
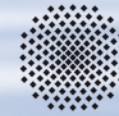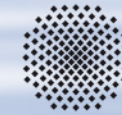
IS: might include other
mediated relation

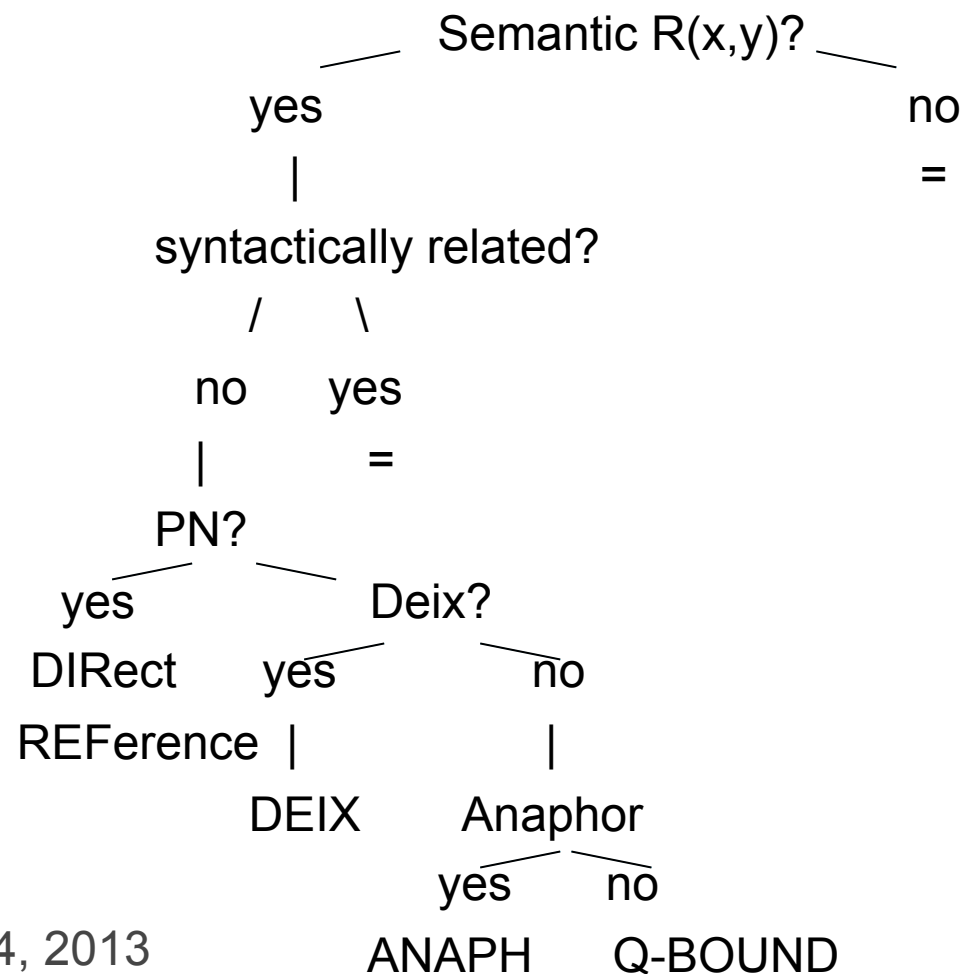March 24, 2013

Annotation examples

(1) Dogs evolved from the Jackal. That's why I love dogs.

=> +coref / -anaph

(2) Dogs evolved from the Jackal. That's why I hate them.

=> +coref / +anaph

(3) I love my dog. Dogs are such nice animals.

=> -coref / -anaph

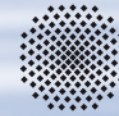(4) I don't like workshops. Discussions last forever.

=> -coref / +anaph

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Annotation: anaphoricity, coreference (Massimo)

Anaphoricity Salient semantic relation which is not given in the syntax.

```
                    ___ Semantic R(x,y)? ___
              yes                              no
               |                                =
        syntactically related?
              /     \
           no      yes
            |        =
          PN?
         /    \
      yes      Deix?
    DIRect    yes      no
    REFerence  |        |
             DEIX    Anaphor
                     yes    no
                   ANAPH   Q-BOUND
```

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Annotation: linking to morpho-syntactic forms (Roberto)

Anaphoric?

Yes | No

Pronoun | Pronoun

Def description | Barack Obama

Some indef (Bridging) | John?

The sun

The 1st time I was in there

Some Indef

Coreferent? (= identity)

Yes | No

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