

## Problem Set 8

Due Friday, March 31. Submit on IVLE > Files > Student Submission > PS8.

### 1. *Only* and pronouns:

Do the exercise on H&K p. 257. For this problem, use the definition for  $\llbracket \text{only} \rrbracket$  there rather than what we did in class.

### 2. *Only* in Singlish:<sup>1</sup>

Singlish has a sentence-final *only*. Assume that this *only* adjoins to the right of TP or VP and has the semantics in (1) from class:

$$(1) \quad \left[ \left[ \alpha \quad \text{only} \right] \right] = 1 \text{ iff } \forall p \in \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^f \left( p \neq \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^o \rightarrow p = 0 \right) \\ \sim \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^o = 1$$

The Singlish sentence in (2) has two readings, informally paraphrased in (a) and (b).

(2) John don't speak [French]<sub>F</sub> only.

- a. Reading 1: John speaks French but also speaks other languages.
- b. Reading 2: (Out of a certain list of languages,) John speaks all languages except for French.

For each reading of (2), draw a tree and compute its truth conditions and presuppositions. For each node  $\alpha$  in the tree, make sure to give its semantic type, rule used, and ordinary and focus-semantic meanings ( $\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^o$  and  $\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^f$ ). Assume the VP-internal subject hypothesis for Singlish.

### 3. Singlish *confirm...only*:

*Confirm* in Singlish is an epistemic necessity modal. Assume *confirm* is in T. Based on Problem 2, we logically expect (3) to have two readings.

(3) John confirm speak [English]<sub>F</sub> only.<sup>2</sup>

- i. Describe the truth conditions of the two predicted readings of (3). For each reading, if possible, describe a context where that reading is true but the other is false.
- ii. Find a Singaporean (not yourself) and check whether (3) has the two readings predicted. Use the contexts constructed in (i) to test this. Discuss your findings.

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<sup>1</sup>Problems 2 and 3 are based on work by Phoebe Cheong.

<sup>2</sup>If you prefer, you can use another example instead of (3) for parts (i) and (ii). The essential components are (a) *confirm* between the subject and verb, (b) focus on some subpart of the VP, and (c) sentence-final *only*.