

Given a language with truth-evaluable *sentences that contain variables*, we say that such sentences are true or false *relative to assignments* of values to variables. Given a first-order language, with no plural variables, we say that each assignment A assigns *exactly one* value to each variable; where each value of a variable is an entity in the relevant domain. For example, the “open” sentence $Fx \ \& \ Gx$ has a singular variable, whose semantic role can be made explicit.

$F(\) \ \& \ G(\)$ is true relative to A iff **the value** that A assigns to x is such that:

 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}$
 x
it satisfies F , and it satisfies G
A(x)
A(x)

Given plural variables, corresponding to ‘them’ (as opposed to ‘it’), we can

(a) retain the idea that each assignment assigns *exactly one* value to each variable, by saying that each value of a plural variable is a plural entity *with elements* that can be values of singular variables; [standard view]

or (b) retain the idea that each value of a variable (singular or plural) is an entity in the domain over which all variables range, by saying that a plural variable can have many values relative to a single assignment of values to variables. [Boolos’ view]

$\Phi(\) \ \& \ \Psi(\)$ is true relative to A iff ...

 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}$
 x_{+pl}

- (a) **the plural entity** that A assigns to x_{+pl} is such that: **it** satisfies Φ , and **it** satisfies Ψ
 (b) **the entities** that A assigns to x_{+pl} are such that: **they** satisfy Φ , and **they** satisfy Ψ

CLAIMS: the second option is coherent, not a notational variant of the first, and preferable; it can be part of a simple account of semantic composition that helps explain some otherwise puzzling facts, including the conservativity of determiners

Assume a domain of exactly 5 things—a, b, c, d, e—and so 31 possible assignments to a variable

<i>null</i>	a	b	ba	c	ca	cb	cba	<i>It might seem that mereology is the only natural construal of the lattice. But we need not assume one value per variable.</i>
d	da	db	dba	dc	dca	dcb	dcba	
e	ea	eb	eba	ec	eca	ecb	ecba	
ed	eda	edb	edba	edc	edca	edcb	edcba	

00000	00001	00010	00011	00100	00101	00110	00111	e=10000, d=1000, c=100, b=10, a=1 01011 = 1000 + 10 + 1 = d + b + a <i>which entities are assigned?</i> (e, ⊥), (d, ⊤), (c, ⊥), (b, ⊤), (a, ⊤)
01000	01001	01010	01011	01100	01101	01110	01111	
10000	10001	10010	10011	10100	10101	10110	10111	
11000	11001	11010	11011	11100	11101	11110	11111	

A Common Interpretation of Indices, Plural Demonstratives, and Verb Phrases

- (1) This trumps that $7\heartsuit Q\clubsuit$ The sentence [This₁ [trumps that₂]] is true, relative to an assignment A of values to variables, iff A(1) trumps A(2); where for each index *i*, A(*i*) is **the** entity that A assigns to the *i*th variable
- (2) This trumps them $7\heartsuit Q\clubsuit K\diamond J\clubsuit$ [This₁ [trumps them₂]] is true relative to A iff A(1) trumps* A(2) & ¬Plural[A(1)] & Plural[A(2)]
- (3) They trump it $7\heartsuit 9\heartsuit Q\clubsuit$ [They₁ [trump it₂]] is true relative to A iff A(1) trumps* A(2) & Plural[A(1)] & ¬Plural[A(2)]
- (4) They trump them $7\heartsuit 9\heartsuit Q\clubsuit K\diamond J\clubsuit$ [They₁ [trump them₂]] is true relative to A iff A(1) trumps* A(2) & Plural[A(1)] & Plural[A(2)]
- (5) for each entity, it is Plural iff it has other entities as elements
- (6) $\forall x\{\text{Plural}(x) \rightarrow \exists y\exists z[(y \neq z) \& (y \in x) \& (z \in x)]\}$
 (6a) $\forall x:\text{Plural}(x)\{\exists y\exists z[(y \neq z) \& (y \in x) \& (z \in x)]\}$
 (6b) $\forall X\exists x\exists y[(x \neq y) \& (x \in X) \& (y \in X)]$ X/x:Plural(x)/x_{+pl}
- (7) for every plural entity X, plural entity Y, nonplural entity x, and nonplural entity y:
 X trumps* Y iff every element of X trumps every element of Y,
 X trumps* y iff every element of X trumps y,
 x trumps* Y iff x trumps every element of Y, and
 x trumps* y iff x trumps y
- (8) $\forall X\forall Y\forall x\forall y\langle \{\text{Trumps}^*(X, Y) \leftrightarrow \forall x':x' \in X[\forall y':y' \in Y\{\text{Trumps}(x', y')\}]\} \& \{\text{Trumps}^*(X, y) \leftrightarrow \forall x':x' \in X[\text{Trumps}(x', y)]\} \& \{\text{Trumps}^*(x, Y) \leftrightarrow \forall y':y' \in Y[\text{Trumps}(x, y')]\} \& \{\text{Trumps}^*(x, y) \leftrightarrow \text{Trumps}(x, y)\} \rangle$
- (9) This trumps that $7\heartsuit Q\clubsuit$ [This₁ [trumps that₂]] is true relative to A iff A(1) trumps* A(2) & ¬Plural[A(1)] & ¬Plural[A(2)]
- (10) [___₁ [trump(s) ___₂]] is true relative to A iff A(1) trumps* A(2)
- (11) $\|\text{trump}(s)\|^A = \lambda\beta.\lambda\alpha.\text{Trumps}^*(\alpha, \beta)$ *using number-neutral variables*
- (12) Every heart trumps every club $\forall x:\text{Heart}(x)\{\forall y:\text{Club}(y)[\text{Trumps}^*(x, y)]\}$
- (13) The hearts trump the clubs $\iota X:\text{Hearts}(X)\{\iota Y:\text{Clubs}(Y)\{\text{Trumps}^*(X, Y)\}\}$
 $\exists X:[\forall x:x \in X \leftrightarrow \text{Heart}(x)]\{\exists Y:\forall y[y \in Y \leftrightarrow \text{Club}(y)]\{\text{Trumps}^*(X, Y)\}\}$
- (14) They₁ trump them₂ $\text{Plural}[A(1)] \& \text{Plural}[A(2)] \& A(1) \text{ trumps}^* A(2)$
 $\exists X:[\forall x:x \in X \leftrightarrow x \in A(1)]\{\exists Y:\forall y[y \in Y \leftrightarrow y \in A(2)]\{\text{Trumps}^*(X, Y)\}\}$

Imagine a (team) game in which no one card trumps anything, but any 2 hearts trump any 2 clubs

(15) They₁ trump them₂ collective: Plural[A(1)] & Plural[A(2)] & A(1) trumps^{co} A(2)
 7♥ 9♥ Q♣ J♣ distributive: Plural[A(1)] & Plural[A(2)] & A(1) trumps* A(2)

(16) for every plural entity X, and every plural entity Y, X trumps^{co} Y iff
 the element_s of X (together) trump the element_s of Y

QUESTIONS: is this just to say that X trumps^{co} Y iff X trumps Y?

Does {7♥, 9♥} trump {Q♣, J♣}? Or is ‘trumps^{co}’ a theoretical term we must define?

If we adopt the hypothesis that each plural demonstrative has a plural entity as its value,
 relative to each assignment of values to variables, what *else* do we need to say?

Are we forced to introduce *multiple type-shifting* principles for verb meanings?

[see Landman]

(17) They₁ wrote them₂ Plural[A(1)] & Plural[A(2)] & A(1) wrote^{co} A(2)
 ☹️☹️👉♀♂ ☒☒☒☒ ☒☒☒☒
 a b c d e f g h i j k

(18) Five professors wrote six papers

(19) $\exists X \exists Y [\text{FiveProfessors}(X) \ \& \ \text{SixPapers}(Y) \ \& \ \text{Wrote}^{\text{co}}(X, Y)]$

FiveProfessors(X) \leftrightarrow FiveMembered(X) & $\forall x: x \in X [\text{Professor}(x)]$

SixPapers(X) \leftrightarrow SixMembered(X) & $\forall x: x \in X [\text{Paper}(x)]$

total autonomy

semi-cooperation

total cooperation

a: f,g
 b: h
 c: i
 d: j
 e: k

a,b,c: f,g,h
 d,e: i,j,k

a,b: f ...
 c,b: g
 d,c: h
 a,c,e: i,j
 b,d: k

a,b,c,d,e: f,g,h,i,j,k

[see Gillon, Schein]

(20) Wrote^{co}({a, b, c, d, e}, {f, g, h, i, j, k})

if this allows for less than total cooperation, then what does it mean, if not:

the element_s of {a, b, c, d, e} were, somehow, the writer_s of the element_s of {f, g, h, i, j, k}?

(21) Five professors wrote six papers in March (quickly, under pressure, and inelegantly)

(22) $\exists X \exists Y \exists e \{ \text{Agent}(e, X) \ \& \ |X| = 5 \ \& \ \forall x: x \in X [\text{Professor}(x)] \ \& \ \text{PastWriting}(e) \ \& \ \text{Theme}(e, Y) \ \& \ |Y| = 6 \ \& \ \forall y: y \in Y [\text{Paper}(y)] \ \& \ \text{In}(e, \text{March}) \ \& \ \dots \}$ *one big event?*

(23) $\exists X \exists Y \exists E \{ \text{Agent}(E, X) \ \& \ \dots \ \& \ \forall e: e \in E [\text{PastWriting}(e)] \ \& \ \text{Theme}(E, Y) \ \& \ \dots \}$

each-of-X
 was-an-Agent-of
 some-of-E

each-of-E
 was-done-by
 some-of-X

each-of-E
 was-a-production-of
 some-of-Y

each-of-Y
 was-a-Theme-of
 some-of-E

A Simpler Alternative (see Boolos, Schein): let a variable have values relative to an assignment

(24) Five professors wrote six papers in March

$\exists E\{\exists X:\text{FIVE}(X) \ \& \ \text{Professors}(X)[\text{Agent}(E, X)] \ \& \ \text{PastWriting}(E) \ \& \ \exists X:\text{SIX}(X) \ \& \ \text{Papers}(X)[\text{Theme}(E, X)] \ \& \ \text{In}(E, \text{March})\}$

There are one or more things_E (the Es) such that:

- (i) five professors were *their_E* Agents—i.e.,
 their_E Agents were some things_X such that: they_X are five and they_X are professors
- and (ii) *they_E* were events of writing—i.e.,
 each of them_E was an event of writing $\forall e:Ee[\text{PastWriting}(e)]$
- and (iii) six papers were *their_E* Themes—i.e.,
 their_E Themes were some things_X such that: they_X are six and they_X are papers
- and (iv) *they_E* were in March—i.e.,
 each of them_E occurred in March

‘Xx’ means that x is an X—i.e., x is one of the Xs—not that x is an element of X

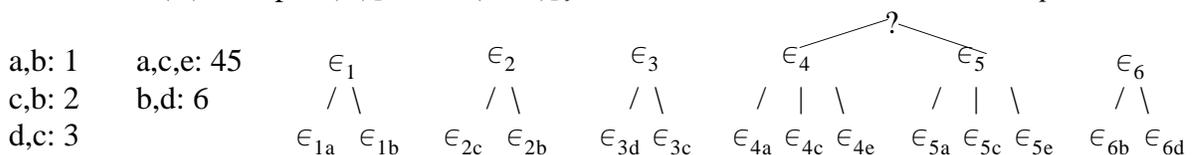
Professors(X)	the Xs are professors	$\forall x:Xx[\text{Professor}(x)]$
Papers(X)	the Xs are papers	$\forall x:Xx[\text{Paper}(x)]$
SIX(X)	the Xs are six _{EssPl}	$\exists Y\exists z\{\text{Five}(Y) \ \& \ \neg Yz \ \& \ \forall x[Xx \leftrightarrow Yx \vee (x = z)]\}$
FIVE(X)	the Xs are five _{EssPl}	$\exists Y\exists z\{\text{Four}(Y) \ \& \ \neg Yz \ \& \ \forall x[Xx \leftrightarrow Yx \vee (x = z)]\}$
Agent(E, X)	the Xs are the Agents of the Es	$\forall x:Xx\{\exists e:Ee[\text{Agent}(e, x)]\} \ \& \ \forall e:Ee\{\exists x:Xx[\text{Agent}(e, x)]\}$
Theme(E, X)	the Xs are the Themes of the Es	$\forall x:Xx\{\exists e:Ee[\text{Theme}(e, x)]\} \ \& \ \forall e:Ee\{\exists x:Xx[\text{Theme}(e, x)]\}$

(17) They₁ wrote them₂ TRUE relative to an assignment A iff
 the things₁ that A assigns to the first index *wrote*
 (i.e., *were the Agents of some PastWritings whose Themes were*)
 the things₂ that A assigns to the second index

$\exists E\{\exists X:\forall x(Xx \leftrightarrow \text{Assigns}(A, x, '1'))[\text{Agent}(E, X)] \ \& \ \text{PastWriting}(E) \ \& \ \exists X:\forall x(Xx \leftrightarrow \text{Assigns}(A, x, '2'))[\text{Theme}(E, X)]\}$

(18) Five professors wrote six papers *suitably neutral about cooperation*

$\exists E\{\exists X:\text{Five}(X) \ \& \ \text{Professors}(X)[\text{Agent}(E, X)] \ \& \ \text{PastWriting}(E) \ \& \ \exists X:\text{Six}(X) \ \& \ \text{Papers}(X)[\text{Theme}(E, X)]\}$



(25) The rocks rained down on the huts clustered near the lakes in which our ancestors fished

Another Familiar Theory and Some Further Familiar Questions

(26) **Every** bottle fell $\{z: \text{Fell}(z)\} \supseteq \{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\}$
*the fallen **include** the bottles*
 $\|\text{every}\| = \lambda Y. \lambda X. \{z: X(z)\} \supseteq \{z: Y(z)\}$
 $\|\{z: Y(z)\} - \{z: X(z)\}\| = 0$ $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} - \{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\| = 0$
*the bottles **are among** the fallen*
 $\lambda x. \text{Bottle}(x) = \|\text{bottle}\|$ $\|\text{fell}\| = \lambda x. \text{Fell}(x)$

(27) **Most** bottles fell $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} \cap \{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\| > \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} - \{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\|$
*the bottles that fell **outnumber** the bottles that didn't fall*

(28) Every bottle fell iff every bottle is a bottle that fell [see, e.g., Barwise&Cooper]
 Most bottles fell iff most bottles are bottles that fell
Some/No/The bottle(s) fell iff *some/no/the* bottle(s) *izza/are* bottle(s) that fell
Between five and eleven bottles fell iff *between five and eleven* bottles are bottles that fell

(29) [[DET NOUN] PREDICATE] *iff* [[DET NOUN] copula [NOUN that PREDICATE]]

(30) $\|\text{bottle}(s) \text{ that fell}\| = \lambda x. \text{Bottle}(x) \ \& \ \text{Fell}(x)$

(31) Most bottles are bottles that fell
 $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} \cap \{z: \text{Bottle}(z) \ \& \ \text{Fell}(z)\}\| > \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} - \{z: \text{Bottle}(z) \ \& \ \text{Fell}(z)\}\|$
*the bottles that are bottles that fell **outnumber** the bottles that are not bottles that fell*

(32) The bottles **are equinumerous with** the things that fell
 The bottles **“samenumber” (correspond 1-to-1 with)** the things that fell

(33) Equi bottles fell $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\}\| = \|\{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\|$
*the bottles **samenumber** the fallen*
 $\|\text{Equi}\| = \lambda Y. \lambda X. \|\{z: Y(z)\}\| = \|\{z: X(z)\}\|$

(34) Equi bottles are bottles that fell $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\}\| = \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z) \ \& \ \text{Fell}(z)\}\|$
*the bottles **samenumber** the bottles that fell*

(35) Equi bottles fell *iff* equi bottles are bottles that fell **FALSE!**
 $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\}\| = \|\{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\|$ *iff* $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\}\| = \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z) \ \& \ \text{Fell}(z)\}\|$

(36) The bottle fell *A bottle, and there was only one, fell*
 $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\}\| = 1 \ \& \ \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} \cap \{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\| > 0$

(37) Gre bottle fell *A bottle was the only thing that fell*
 $\|\{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\| = 1 \ \& \ \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} \cap \{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\| > 0$

(38) Gre bottle is a bottle that fell *A bottle was the only bottle that fell*
 $\|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z) \ \& \ \text{Fell}(z)\}\| = 1 \ \& \ \|\{z: \text{Bottle}(z)\} \cap \{z: \text{Fell}(z)\}\| > 0$

bottle-1 bottle-2 cup-1
fell *didn't fall* *fell* (37) can be false, while (38) is true

Using Barwise and Cooper’s terminology: determiners “live on” their internal arguments; some but not all relations between functions (from individuals to truth values) are *conservative*:

$$X \mathbb{R} Y \quad \text{iff} \quad (X \cap_{\langle x, t \rangle} Y) \mathbb{R} Y$$

But many otherwise “natural” second-order relations, like equinumerosity, are nonconservative. So why don’t we find determiners that—like the invented term ‘Equi’—express such relations?

Keenan and Stavi suggest that all determiner meanings are constructible, in a conservativity-preserving way, from “basic” determiner meanings that are conservative.

But even if this is right: *why* is the ‘Equi’-relation, which lies near the heart of arithmetic, not a basic determiner meaning? *Why* is ‘Most’ constructible, while ‘Equi’ is not?

Why is ‘The’ more natural than ‘Gre’? If determiners are of type $\langle\langle x, t \rangle, \langle\langle x, t \rangle, t \rangle\rangle$, why are certain functions of this type *not* possible determiner meanings?

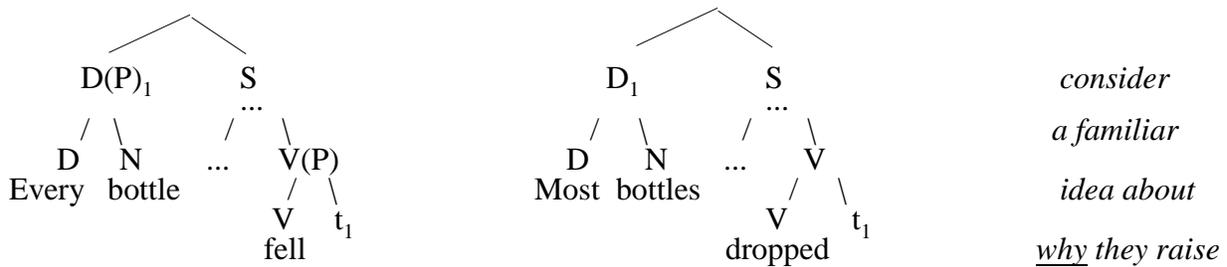
Why *don’t* we lexicalize ‘only’ as a determiner that is the nonconservative converse of ‘every’?

Compare the absence of “thematically inverted” verbs: $\|grote\| = \lambda y. \lambda x. y \text{ wrote } x$.

The invented phrases ‘Equi bottles’ and ‘Gre bottle’ would not be *restricted* quantifiers.

But this is another form of the question: if determiners express second-order relations, why do they express relations corresponding to restricted quantifiers (with the noun as restrictor)?

A related question, assuming that determiner phrases like ‘every bottle’ and ‘most bottles’ raise.



Suppose that the lexical meaning of ‘every’ would not be properly expressed if ‘every bottle’ was interpreted as an argument of ‘fell’. If a determiner takes an internal and external argument, like a transitive verb, maybe ‘every’ raises to “see” its external argument and “express itself.” If so, this lexical requirement is satisfied in the configuration above—with the determiner taking a *sentential* external argument, whose value is TRUE or FALSE, relative to any assignment of values to variables. But does this fit with the idea that ‘every’ indicates a relation between *sets*? A sentence with one variable is, in many ways, *like* the corresponding predicate of type $\langle x, t \rangle$. But if ‘every’ raises to a position in which its lexical requirements are met, why do we still have to “cheat” by construing the open *sentence* as a device for expressing a *function* of type $\langle x, t \rangle$?

- (39) $\langle It_1 \text{ fell} \rangle_S$ TRUE, relative to any assignment A, iff A(1) fell
- (39a) $1^{\wedge} \langle t_1 \text{ fell} \rangle_S$ $\lambda x. (\text{TRUE iff}) x \text{ fell}$, relative to any assignment A
- (40) $\langle He_1 \text{ dropped } it_2 \rangle_S$ TRUE, relative to any assignment A, iff A(1) dropped A(2)
- (40) $2^{\wedge} \langle He_1 \text{ dropped } it_2 \rangle_S$ $\lambda x. (\text{TRUE iff}) A(1) \text{ dropped } x$, relative to any assignment A
- (41) Every bottle [~~wh~~₂ $\langle he_1 \text{ dropped } t_2 \rangle_S$] has *no* truth-evaluable reading: why not?

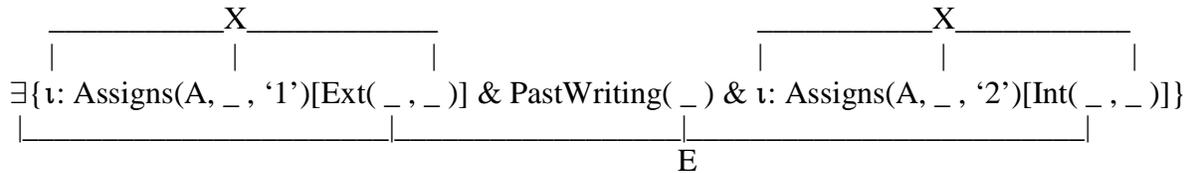
(42) They₁ wrote them₂ $\exists E[\text{Agent}(E, \text{They}_1) \ \& \ \text{PastWriting}(E) \ \& \ \text{Theme}(E, \text{them}_2)]$

PastWriting(E) $\rightarrow \forall e: Ee[\text{Event}(e)]$
 Event(e) $\rightarrow \forall x \{ [\text{External}(e, x) \leftrightarrow \text{Agent}(e, x)] \ \& \ [\text{Internal}(e, x) \leftrightarrow \text{Theme}(e, x)] \}$

(43) They₁ wrote them₂ $\exists E \text{External}(E, \text{They}_1) \ \& \ \text{PastWriting}(E) \ \& \ \text{Internal}(E, \text{them}_2)]$

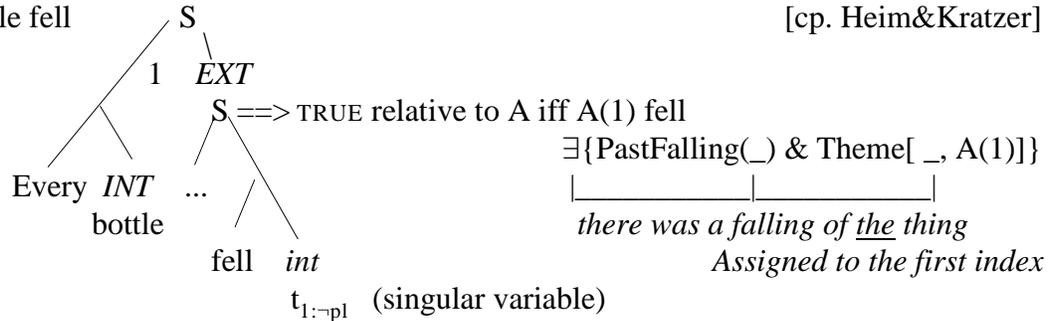
(44) External(E, They₁) $\leftrightarrow \exists X: \forall x [Xx \leftrightarrow \text{Assigns}(A, x, '1')] \{ \text{External}(E, X) \}$

(45) Internal(E, them₂) $\leftrightarrow \exists X: \forall x [Xx \leftrightarrow \text{Assigns}(A, x, '2')] \{ \text{Internal}(E, X) \}$
 $\iota X: \text{Assigns}(A, X, '2')$



(46) There were *one or more* things_E such that
 their_E ExternalParticipants (Agents) were the things Assigned to the first index, and
 they_E were events of writing, and
 their_E InternalParticipants (Themes) were the things Assigned to the second index

(47) Every bottle fell [cp. Heim&Kratzer]



(48) $\exists \{ \text{Every}() \ \& \ \text{Internal}[(_), \text{Bottle}()] \ \& \ 1^{\wedge} \text{External}[(_), \text{TRUE relative to A iff A(1) fell}] \}$

F

PROPOSAL: determiners are predicates of “FregePairs,” ordered pairs of the form $\langle v, x \rangle$;
 where the external element v is a truth value (TRUE or FALSE, \top or \perp), and
 the internal element x is one of the things over which (singular and plural) variables range

Every(F) *the Fs are all of the form* $\langle \top, x \rangle$
 $\forall f: Ff[\text{External}(f, \top)]$

Internal[F, bottle()] *the InternalParticipants of the Fs are the bottles*
 $\iota X: \text{Bottle}(X)[\text{Internal}(F, X)]$

$1^{\wedge} \text{External}[F, \text{TRUE relative to A iff A(1) fell}]$ *the Fs conform to the following rule: \top iff x fell*
 for each_f F, its_f ExternalParticipant is \top iff
 its_f InternalParticipant fell

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