

## Indexing and interpretation in GB

Chomsky (1979) contains just 2 brief mentions of the issue of interpretation with respect to indexing:

“Condition [C], in the case of lexical items [i.e., R-expressions], simply states their familiar property of DR, under a natural interpretation of coindexing.” p.14

<This passage persists in the published version - Chomsky (1981), p.136.>

<<He doesn't say what that natural interpretation is. Further, interpretation of coindexing won't help at all here, since Condition C, in the relevant structural circumstances, demands **contra-indexing**.>>

Discussing Condition B, he says:

“... we need introduce no mention of the property of disjoint reference, just as in the case of [R-expressions].” pp.18-19

<<At the very least, this has the same problem as that noted just above for Condition C.>>

<This passage is gone in the published version.>

We will see in class that once we extend our investigation to plural expressions, there is no system of interpretation that gives the right results for the GB indexing system.

Interestingly, Chomsky (1965) proposed just that indexing system, but also suggested a complete interpretive procedure, but with a now familiar caveat:

“The semantic component will ... interpret two referential items as having the same reference just in case they are strictly identical - in particular, in case they have been assigned the same integer in the deep structure. This gives the right answer in many cases, but there are interesting problems that arise when the referential items are plural ...” p.146

Chomsky, Noam. 1965. *Aspects of the theory of syntax*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT press.

Chomsky, Noam. 1979. *Markedness and core grammar* (ms.).

Chomsky, Noam. 1981. *Markedness and core grammar*. In *Theory of markedness in generative grammar - Proceedings of the 1979 GLOW conference*, ed. Adriana Belletti, Luciana Brandi, and Luigi Rizzi, 123-146. Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa.