

Barbara Partee 1975 Montague Grammar and Transformational Grammar
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Partee 1975 on the structure of relative clauses

p.231

(51) The man who dates Mary loves her.

To put the same thing another way, consider the view that relative clauses modify terms (NPs), so that in (51), for instance, the relative clause *who dates Mary* is attached to the term phrase *the man*. If syntactic and semantic rules are to correspond, the semantic rules would in this case have to start with the interpretation of the relative clause (presumably a property) and the interpretation of *the man*, the latter containing the proposition that there exists one and only one man. But it is not clear (which is not to say it is impossible) how these interpretations could be systematically combined to give the desired result, the main problem being that the interpretation for *the man* is not a part of the interpretation of the result. (By the way, note that such an analysis could be quite appropriate for *nonrestrictive* relative clauses, which suggests that perhaps the (or one) basic distinction between the two types is common-noun modification versus term modification.)