

Semantics 2

Linking and Copula

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Literary scenario for the class: Back to the Future

Characters:

Marty McFly

Loraine Baines-McFly

George McFly

Dr. Emmett "Doc" Brown

Biff Tannen

Jennifer Parker

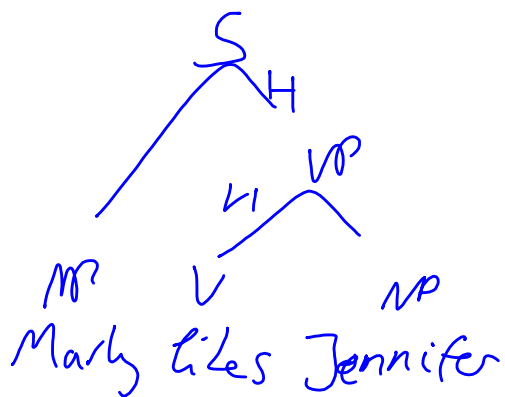
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Homework for today

- Read Chapter 5.5 of the textbook.
- Provide the PARTS lists of the words of the example sentence [Marty likes Jennifer](#).
- What are the possible EXCONT values of this sentence?

Marty:

]



Semantic combinatorics

Semantic contributions of the words:

Marty: PARTS $\langle \text{marty} \rangle$
 likes: PARTS $\langle \text{likes}_3, u, \text{---} \rangle$
 Jennifer: PARTS $\langle \text{jennifer} \rangle$

LRS Projection principle:

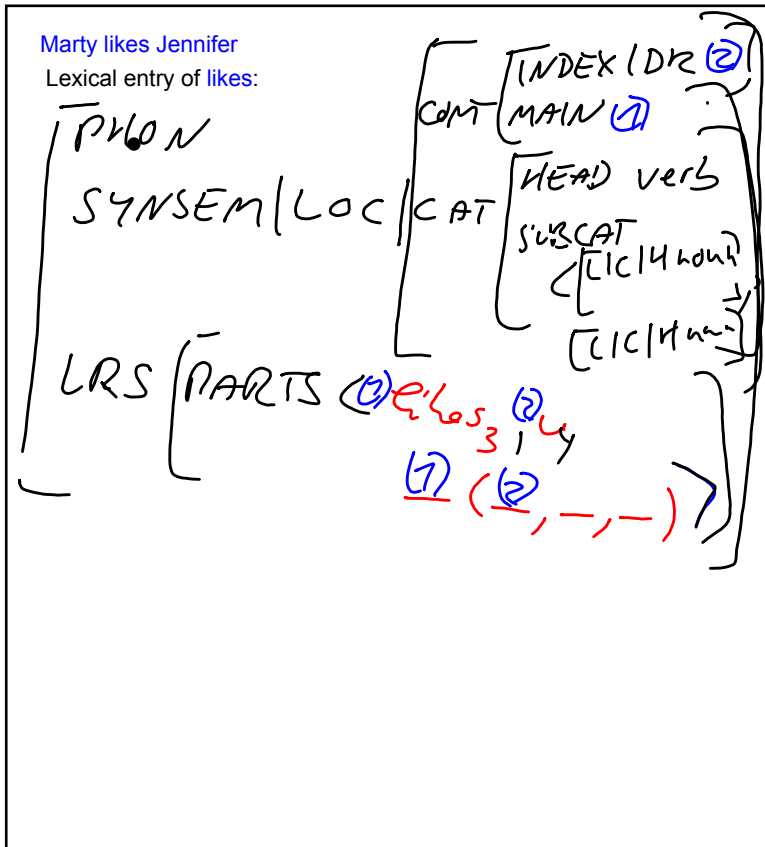
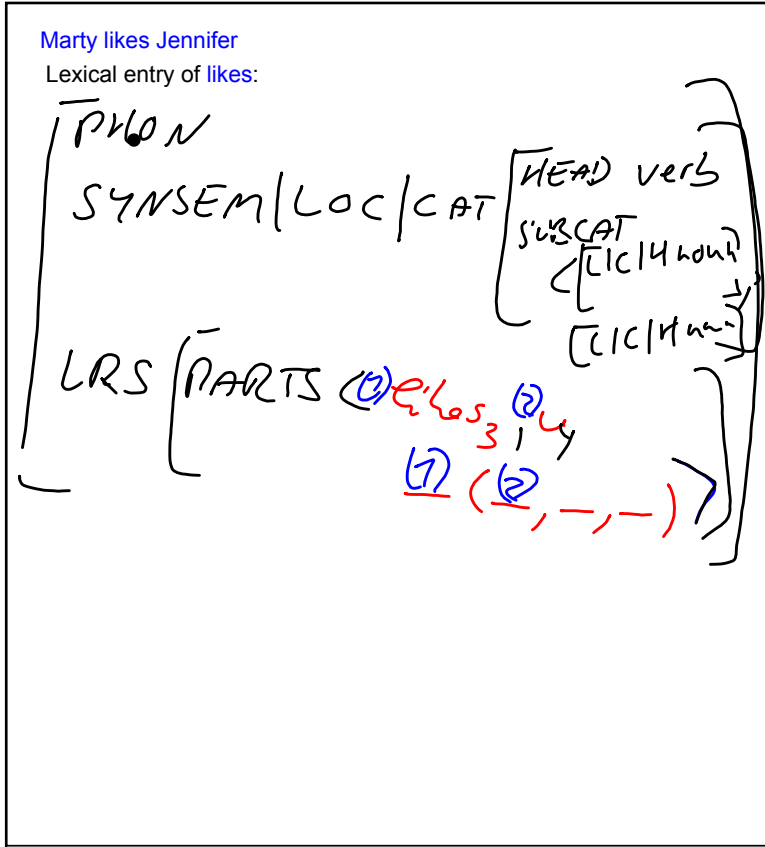
Mother's PARTS contains all of the daughters' PARTS elements and nothing else.

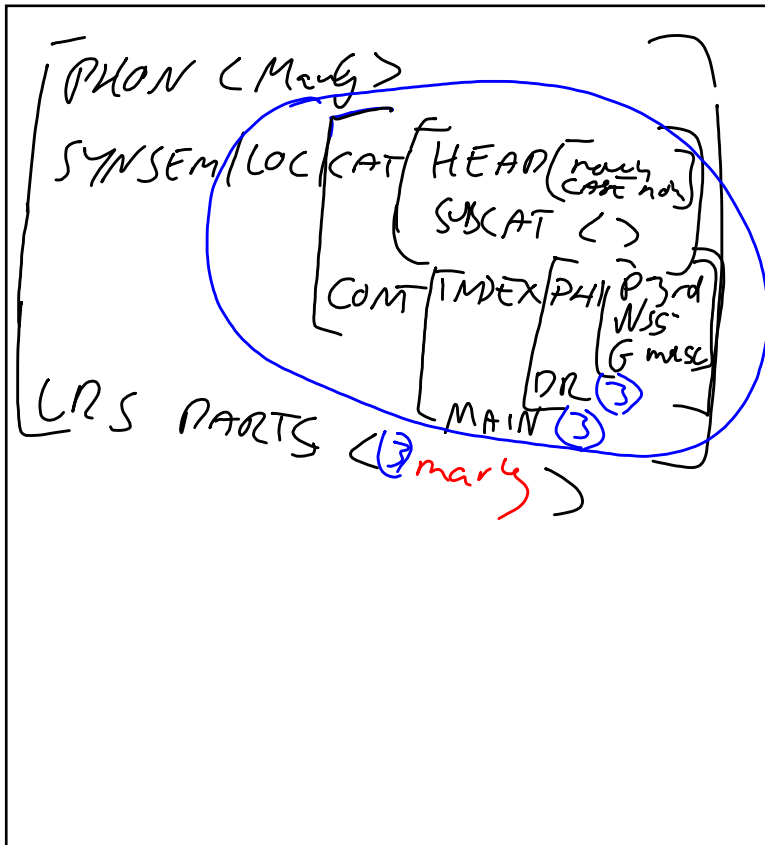
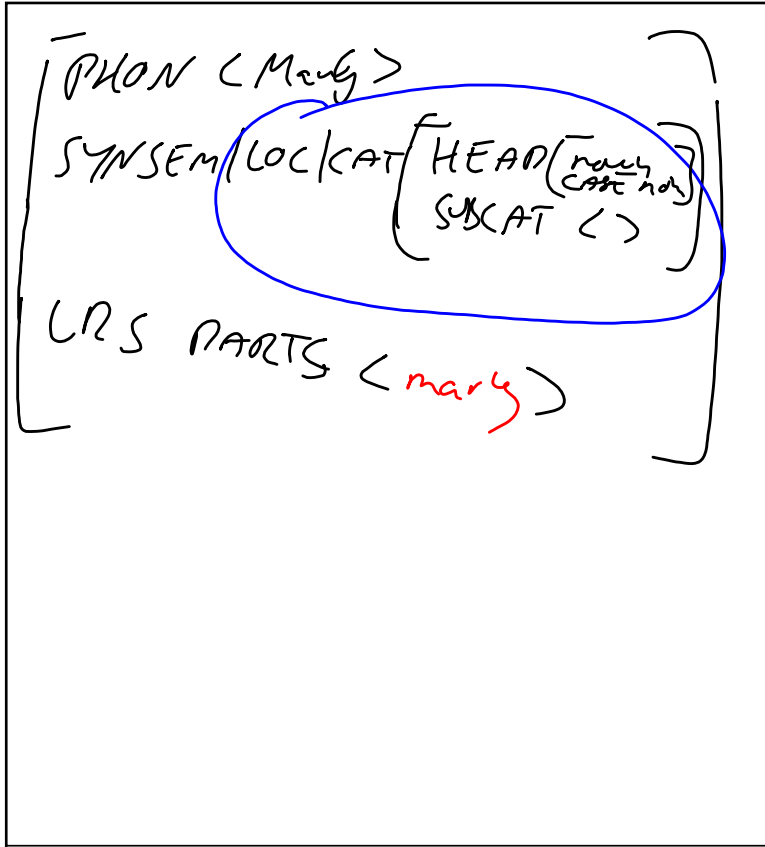
EXCONT Principle:

An utterance's EXCONT is a formula that consists exactly of the elements of its PARTS list.

External context of a sentence
 → the logical form of the sentence

~~likes₃(jennifer, u, marty)~~
~~likes₃(u, jennifer, marty)~~
~~likes₃(marty, jennifer, u)~~
~~likes₃(marty, u, jennifer)~~
~~likes₃(u, marty, jennifer) !~~
~~likes₃(jennifer, marty, u)~~





dass der Mary den Wagen fährt
 dass den Wagen der Mary fährt

fährt: $SUBCAT \langle NP[nom], NP[acc] \rangle$

sehen: $SUBCAT \langle NP[nom], NP[acc], NP[acc] \rangle$

give: $SUBCAT \langle NP[nom], NP[acc], NP[acc] \rangle$
 $SUBCAT \langle NP[nom], NP[acc], PP[to] \rangle$

Local semantics

Linking Relativ synt. dependencies to
 sem. argument slots.
 Sortal restrictions

weaker semantic selectional restrictions

Pat is pretty.

Colourless green ideas

Sleep furiously.

Pat happened.

Local semantics

Why can a selector not see the meaning contribution of the elements it selects?

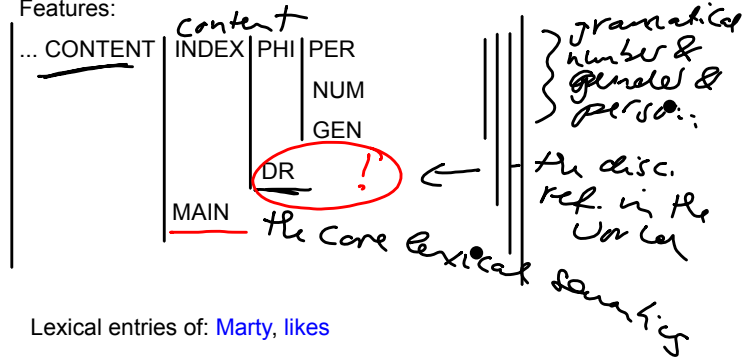
Is this a good thing?

Linking/local semantics

Idea: make some semantic information locally available inside a synsem object!

Discourse Referent

Features:

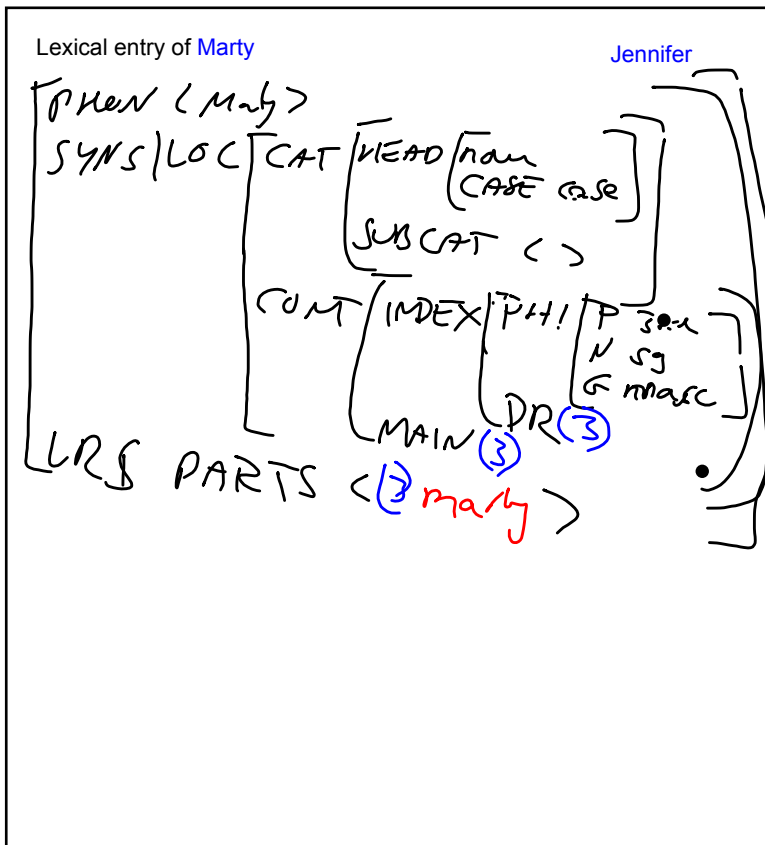


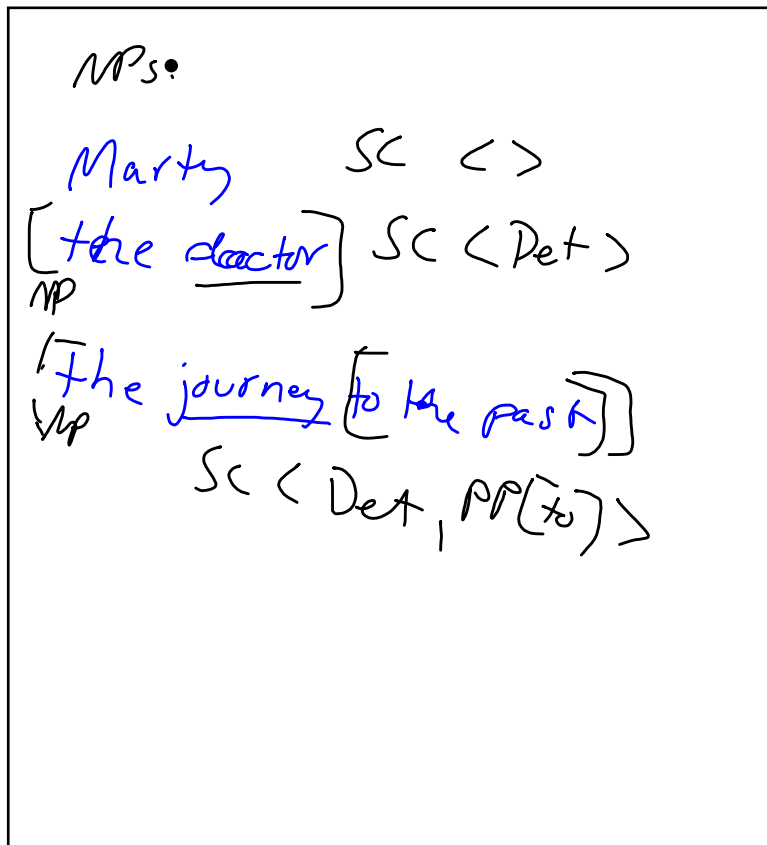
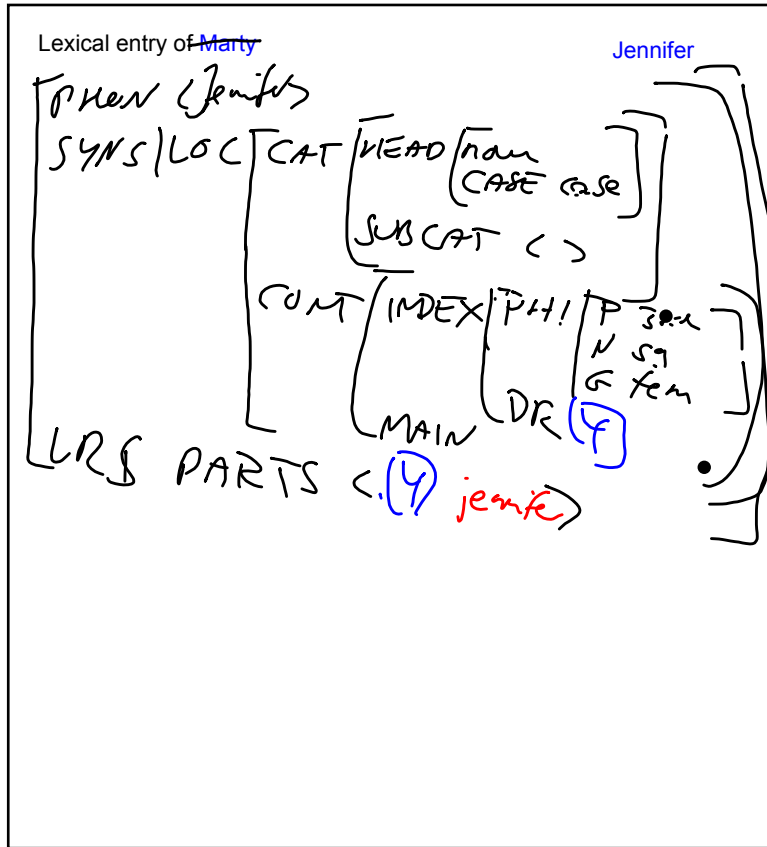
Lexical entries of: [Marty](#), [likes](#)

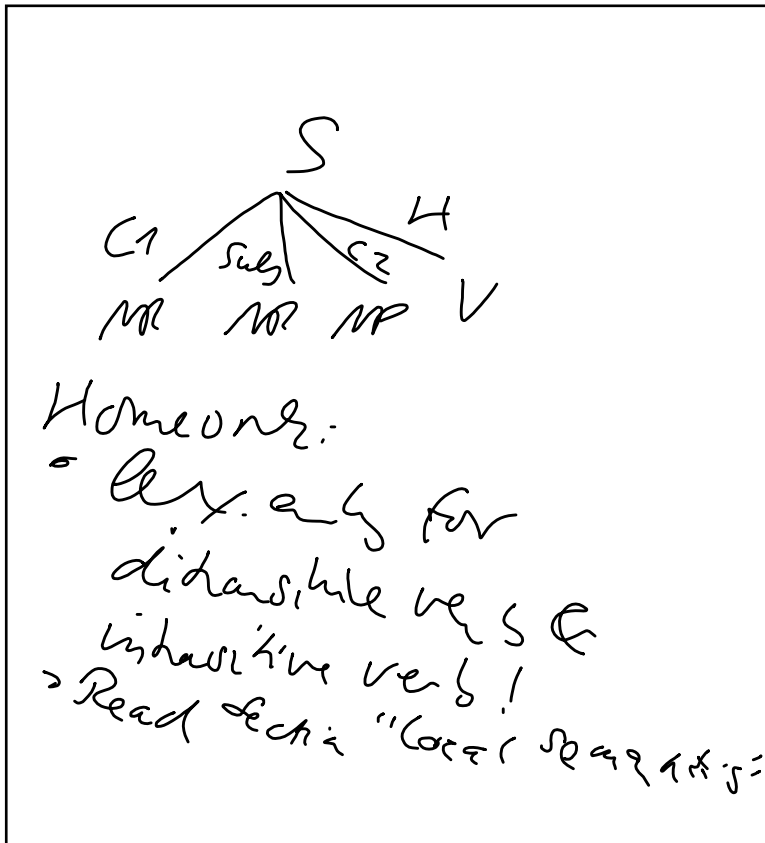
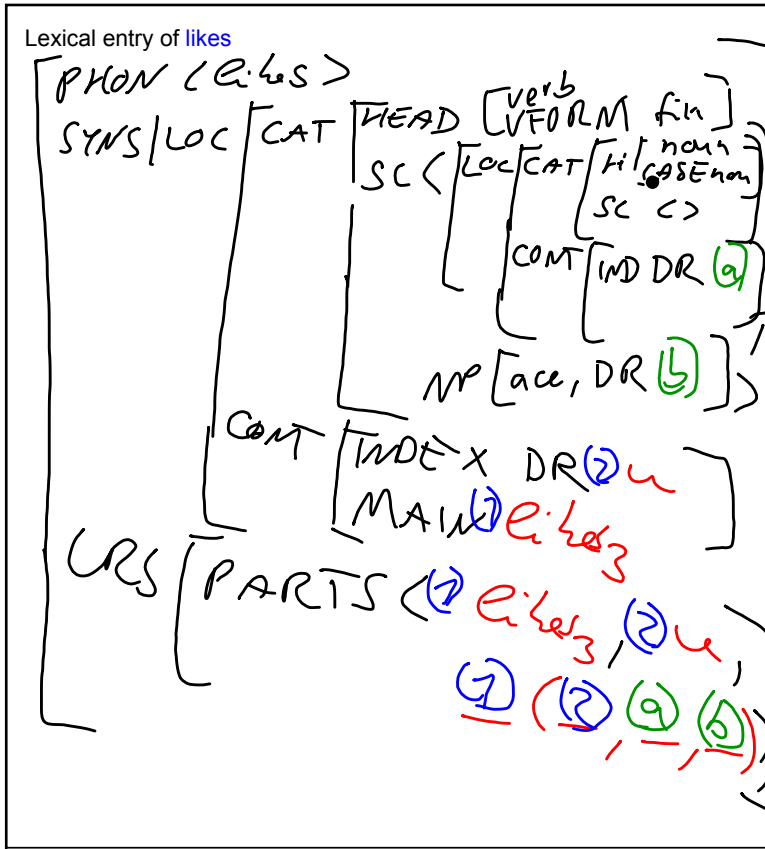
INDEX (1) INDEX (1)
Mary is talking to herself
 *himself
 *herselves
 *myself.

sg
 3rd
 fem

talk-to₃ (u, (2)mary, (2))







For next week

- Read Chapter 5.5 of the textbook.
- Provide the lexical entry of an intransitive and a ditransitive verb. Use the local semantics to express linking.