

Sloppy Identity with no Binding

Ezra Keshet, University of Michigan

Reinhart (1983) takes sloppy identity (Ross 1967) to be a definitive test for bound pronouns. Examples (1) – VP Ellipsis – and (2) – Deaccenting – have ‘sloppy’ readings indicating that Billy ate his own dinner, rather than Johnny’s dinner. The first clause in each may have an LF structure like (3), where an operator/operation indicated by λ c-commands and ‘binds’ the pronoun *his* to its antecedent *Johnny*. Reinhart argues such bound readings require c-commanding antecedents, citing (4), which she claims lacks a sloppy reading. But (5) has a non-commanding antecedent and still allows a sloppy reading (Wescoat 1989, Hardt 1993, Hirschberg & Ward 1991). Example (6) shows that the names in (5) are in syntactic islands, ruling out covert movement. Tomioka (1999) suggests that *him* in (5) is an E-type pronoun (Evans 1980, Heim 1990) meaning “the person he arrested” where *he* is bound by *the officer*.

In my new cases (7)-(10), raising and E-type analyses are untenable, but sloppy identity is available. The names in (7)-(9) are in syntactic islands. Examples (7) and (8) are “backwards pronominalization” which do not support E-type anaphora (Tomioka 1999, citing Heim 1982). Example (9) also disallows E-type anaphora, since the relevant E-type meaning for *him* – “the person they were about” – cannot be bound by *the articles* in the first clause (cf. (11)). Last, (10) is a case where VP ellipsis is not available (there is no relevant VP) but deaccenting shows that *him* enables a sloppy reading. Here, the name cannot raise due to Weak Crossover (cf. (12)) and an E-type analysis is ruled out due to i-within-i constraints (cf. (13)).

My solution is that sloppy identity arises from several ‘locally derived’ pronoun readings; λ -binding is only one. Another one is tied instead to discourse function. Consider (14), adapted from (5), where the first *him* allows a sloppy reading and hence is locally derived. The VP in (14), *arrested him*, bears a contrastive focus relation with the relative clause *captured John* (cf. the **Contrast** relation of Kehler 2002). Rooth (1992) represents this relation with his \sim operator, whose argument (P_i in this case) enforces parallelism with a co-indexed phrase ($[\lambda x t_x \text{ captured John}]_i$ here). Only focussed items (like *arrested_F*) can vary between such phrases. I propose that \sim also affects the values of pronoun indices, just like λ does. The \sim changes the value of the index j in this case to refer to John, in order to maintain the contrastive focus relation.

Similar operators apply in sentences (7)-(10), all shown as **Disc** in (15)-(18). To maintain a **Violated Expectation** relation (Kehler 2002) between the relative clause (*x grew up there*) and the VP (*x thinks Los Angeles is scary*), a discourse operator similar to \sim applies to the relative clause, forcing the pronoun *there* to refer to Los Angeles. Examples (8)-(9) exhibit **Result** relations (Kehler) between clauses (*x has met him* vs. *x realizes Tom Selleck is tall* for (8); the two clauses for (9)) or a PP and a clause (*about him* and *upset Biden* for (10)). Again, a discourse operator enforces these relations, setting values for pronoun indices as needed.

The cases presented here are all ones where the pronoun with a locally derived reading refers to a single individual mentioned before. Future work will try to explore how such discourse

operations interact with more complex antecedents and quantifiers, as in (19) - (20).

- (1) Johnny ate his dinner, and Billy did <>, too. [VP Ellipsis, indicated by <>]
- (2) Johnny ate his dinner, and Billy (ate his dinner), too. [Deaccenting, indicated by ()]
- (3) LF: Johnny λx ate his_x dinner.
- (4) People from Los Angeles adore it and people from New York do <>, too.
- (5) The officer who arrested John insulted him, and the one who arrested Bill did <>, too.
- (6) *The officer who arrested [each protester]_i insulted him_i.
- (7) Even people who grew up there_i think that Los Angeles_i is scary.
Only people who DIDN'T <> / (grow up there_i) think that New York_j is scary.
- (8) Only people who've met him_i realize that Tom Selleck_i is tall.
Only people who HAVEN'T <> / (met him_i) think that Tom Cruise_j is tall.
- (9) The articles about Obama_i were flattering and people voted for him_i.
The ones about Romney_j weren't and people DIDN'T <> / (vote for him_j).
- (10) Rumors about him_i upset Biden_i. The TRUTH (about him_i) upsets Ryan_j.
- (11) *Each article_i flattered Obama and people trusted its_i author.
- (12) *Rumors about him_i upset each politician_i.
- (13) *[Rumors about the person they_i upset]_i upset Biden.
- (14) The officer who captured John_i arrested him_i
... but the one that captured BOB_j DIDN'T <> / (arrest him_j).
- (15) The officer who [λx t_x captured John]_i [[λx t_x arrested_F him]_j ~P_i]
- (16) People who [**Disc**(P_i)] [λx t_x have met him]_j] [λx t_x think Tom Selleck is tall]_i
- (17) [The articles about Obama were flattering]_i and [**Disc**(P_i) [people voted for him]_j]
- (18) Rumors [**Disc**(P_i) [about him]_j] [upset Biden]_i
- (19) [John λx t_x cashed his_x paycheck]_i. [[Bill λx t_x deposited it]_j ~P_i]
- (20) If a donkey λx [t_x is hungry]_i, [**Disc**(P_i) [it_j brays]]