24.910 Topics in Linguistic Theory: Propositional Attitudes
Spring 2009

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1. Solutions to exercises for last week

2. Think…might exercise

(1) Sue thinks it might be raining.
(2) Joe thinks that Bush might be president.

❖ Truth Conditions of (1)-(2)
  ➢ Entailments?
  ➢ What possibilities does Sue / Joe entertain?

❖ Compositional semantics
  ➢ $\llbracket X \text{ thinks that might } \phi \rrbracket^w =$

  ➢ $\llbracket \text{think-might} \rrbracket^w =$

  ➢ Accessibility relation?

❖ Advanced steps
Next steps: How might we try to tease apart the contribution of think and the contribution of might?
  ➢ $\llbracket \text{might } \phi \rrbracket^w =$

  Would we need to revise think?
  ➢ $\llbracket X \text{ thinks } \phi \rrbracket =$
3. Inference Patterns with Propositional Attitudes

[Note: Not all of these express attitudes, but most are intensional]

- **Factive Predicates**
  - PRED p \(\rightarrow\) p
  - Op [PRED p] \(\rightarrow\) p
  [Op = negation, question operator, …]

Examples:
- know
- realize
- regret
- be glad to
- be proud to
- be lucky to
- forget (that)
- resent
- make clear
- find out
- discover
- see
- notice

- **Implicative Predicates**
  - PRED p \(\rightarrow\) p
  - Op [PRED p] \(\rightarrow\) Op p

Examples:
- manage
- remember
- bother
- get
- dare
- care
- venture
- condescend
- happen
- see fit
- be careful
- have the misfortune
- have the sense
- take the time
- take the opportunity
- take the trouble
- take it upon oneself

- **Negative Implicative Predicates**
  - PRED p \(\rightarrow\) NOT p
  - Op [PRED p] \(\rightarrow\) Op [NOT p]

Examples:
- forget
- fail
- neglect
- decline
- avoid
- refrain

- **Discussion**
  - Additional properties
  - Counterexamples to above patterns
  - Effect of tense, mood, aspect