Abstract Objects and the Semantics of Natural Language

Friederike Moltmann

Table of Contents

Chapter 1
Reference to Universals

1. Two kinds of terms for universals
2. The kind term behaviour of bare adjective nominalizations
3. Kind terms and kind-referring terms
   3.1. Kind as objects of reference
   3.2. Properties and kinds of tropes
   3.3. Tropes and kinds of tropes
   3.4. Other kind terms
4. Terms for instances and terms for universals
5. Kind reference
   5.1. Making sense of kind reference
   5.2. The problem with reference to kinds
6. A plural reference approach to kind terms
   6.1. The semantics of definite plurals: plural reference or reference to a plurality?
   6.2. Plural reference
   6.3. Modalized plural reference
7. The Semantics of explicit property-referring terms

Chapter 2
Reference to Tropes and the Ontology of Tropes
1. Tropes in philosophy
   1.1. The recent tradition: tropes within a one-category ontology
   1.2. Tropes in the history of philosophy
   1.3. Tropes and contemporary semantic theory
2. Characteristics of tropes and their reflection in natural language
   2.1. Tropes as causal relata
   2.2. Similarity relations
   2.3. Bearer dependence
   2.4. The problem of the spatio-temporal location of tropes
   2.5. Further properties of concreteness
      2.5.1. Groundedness
      2.5.2. Description Independence
      2.5.3. Internal Structure and measurable extent
3. Quantitative tropes
4. Variable tropes and the notion of a variable object
5. Tropes and the semantics of adjectives
6. Challenges to standard trope theory: the gradability of adjectives
   6.1. Gradable adjectives
   6.2. Positive and absolute nominalizations
7. Tropes and events
   7.1. Semantic parallels between tropes and events
   7.2. Tropes as an ontological category comprising events
8. Sketch of an ontological account of facts and states

Appendix: Tropes as truthmakers

**Chapter 3**

**The Semantics of Special Quantifiers in Predicate Position**

1. Neutralist and abstract meaning theories of special quantifiers
   1.1. Neutralism
   1.2. The Abstract Meaning Theory
      1.2.1. The Abstract Meaning Theory and its problems
1.2.2. The Relational Analysis and its problems
1.2.3. Second-order logic and the type-theoretic approach

2. The Nominalization Theory of special quantifiers
3. Special Nouns
4. Conclusion

Chapter 4
Propositions and Attitudinal Objects

1. Semantic motivations for propositions and the Relational Analysis of attitude reports
2. Conceptual problems for propositions
3. Empirical problems for propositions
   3.1. The Substitution Problem
   3.2. The Objectivization Effect
4. Attitudinal objects
   4.1. Characteristics of attitudinal objects
      4.1.1. The involvement of force
      4.1.2. Similarity relations
      4.1.3. Properties of concrete objects
   4.2. Differences between attitudinal objects and mental or illocutionary events
   4.3. Kinds of attitudinal objects
5. Attitudinal objects and special quantifiers in sentential position
6. A neo-Russellian analysis of attitude reports
   6.1. Intentional predication and the Russelian Multiple Relations Analysis
   6.2. Complex sentences
   6.3. Other sentence-embedding predicates
   6.4. Empirical evidence for the neo-Russellian view: The plurality of propositional content
7. The ontology of attitudinal objects
8. The semantics of terms for attitudinal objects
9. The semantics of special quantifiers in sentential position
10 Cognate objects and special quantifiers
11. *That*-clauses and measure phrases
12. Conclusion

**Chapter 5**

**Intensional Transitive Verbs and their Intentional Objects**

1. Transitive intensional verbs and special quantifiers
   1.1. Verbs of absence and verbs of possession
   1.2. Epistemic verbs
   1.3. Verbs of nomination
2. The Relational Analysis of transitive intensional verbs
3. The Nominalization Theory of special quantifiers with transitive intensional verbs
   3.1. Evidence for the Nominalization Theory
   3.2. Apparent problems for the Nominalization Theory
   3.3. Extensional and intensional verbs sharing their object
   3.4. Two intensional verbs sharing their object
4. A semantic analysis of transitive intensional verbs with special quantifiers
5. Explicit reference to variable satisfiers
6. Other transitive intensional verbs
   6.1. Verbs of representation
   6.2. Perception verbs
7. Conclusion

**Chapter 6**

**Reifying Terms**

1. Two types of reifying terms
2. Linguistic properties of reifying terms
3. An outline of a semantics of reifying terms
4. Expression-referring terms and quotation
5. Number-referring terms and simple numerals
   5.1. Predicates of numbers
      5.1.1. Mathematical predicates
5.1.2. Nonmathematical predicates

5.2. The Adjectival Strategy

5.3. Explicit number-referring terms

6. Explicit color-referring terms and bare color adjectives

7. Syntactic indicators for quasi-referential expressions
   7.1. Special quantifiers
   7.2. Support for plural anaphora
   7.3. Two kinds of relative clauses

8. Conclusion