

'And'

Conjunction Reduction Redux

Forthcoming The MIT Press.

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27 December 2015



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'And': Conjunction Reduction Redux shows that 'and' has the same syntax and semantics, that of the sentential logical connective, across the varied constructions in which it is tokened in natural language. The chapters survey the constructions that challenge this thesis. Chapter 2 is about the conjunction of DPs, as in *Few Yankees and few Red Sox hugged*. Chapter 3 is about the conjunction of predicate phrases—*The players were batting and fielding in the bottom of the ninth inning*—and Chapter 4 is about conjoined noun phrases—*Few Yankees and Red Sox hugged*. These constructions have since Aristotle (Lasersohn 1995) stood against the claim that the same *and*, same meaning and same syntax, occurs in all of them and also in *The Red Sox won and the Yankees tied*. The illusion of several *ands* is dissipated once these constructions are correctly translated into Eventish, a logical language with the canonical clause structure described below and a vocabulary for spatial orientation and navigation, Cinerama Semantics.

Eventish, a neo-Davidsonian logical language, has a clause structure distinguished by four features: *supermonadicity*, *adverbialization*, *AdrPs* and *descriptive event anaphora*. *Supermonadicity* enlarges verbal decomposition so that every argument relates to its own event: *kill* is "cause-die" in which the agent's action is one event, the victim's death, another. *Adverbialization* interposes adverbials derived from the descriptive content of every DP so that *The superhero is faster than the mild-mannered reporter* is understood as "The superhero *when a superhero* is faster than the mild-mannered reporter *when a mild-mannered reporter*", eschewing the contradiction that one is faster than oneself. *AdrPs* replace all NPs with Address Phrases that locate what nominals denote within scenes or frames of reference, so that *most infielders and outfielders* is understood as "most infielders *here* and outfielders *there*". *Here* and *there* are addresses in scenes or frames of reference that are themselves introduced by tacit description or quantification. The fourth feature, *descriptive event anaphora*, replaces simple event variables with silent descriptive pronouns: *Brutus killed Caesar* is, so to speak, "Brutus acted (in some event). *That* [Brutus' action] caused *this* [Caesar's death]. Caesar died (in some event)." This silent pronoun must be a plural in *Cassius eagerly and Brutus reluctantly killed Caesar*, referring to the two actions that conspire in Caesar's death, the one executed eagerly and the other reluctantly.

Nothing about Eventish or Cinerama Semantics mentions *and*, and they are in any case revisions too fundamental to put in service just to rescue *and* from ambiguity. Rather, they are called upon to solve puzzles of grammar and meaning unrelated to *and*. The central thesis of the book falls out as a corollary, as aspects of meaning mistakenly attributed to *and* are discovered to reflect neighboring structures previously unseen and unacknowledged.

As Peter Lasersohn remarks (1995. *Plurality, Conjunction and Events*. Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy. Springer), the thesis that in *Triangle ABC and Triangle DEF are identical*, the *and* is a sentential connective has not been in vogue since this example of Aristotle's, except in work by a Dr. Latham (1847) quoted by a Sir John Stoddart (1849). I have had to range widely to take up again

such a quixotic view against its overwhelming challenges (in a brief still shorter than *Don Quixote*). Eventish and Cinerama Semantics as a theory is a few definitions and principles, compact to state, from which follow the solutions to the classic problems in syntax and semantics and philosophy of language surveyed. The book is as long as it is because the argument is relentless, much of it in pursuit of new empirical evidence. I should like to think that a reader will enjoy the read as much for its collection of empirical insights as for any of its theoretical conclusions or arguments.

♣The book in 15 pp.:

(2012) "[Event Semantics](#):" In Gillian Russell & Delia Graff Fara, eds., *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Language*, pp. 280-294.

♣Chapter 1 of the ms. is also an overview.