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Title. Truthmaker Semantics for Homogeneity in Plural Definites

Abstract. In this talk I investigate the semantics of plural definites, particularly the phenomenon known as homogeneity. This is the ‘gap’ between the truth conditions of sentences like ‘the kids laughed’ and ‘the kids didn’t laugh,’ which are generally judged to mean roughly ‘all the kids laughed’ and ‘none of the kids laughed’ respectively. When some but not all kids laughed, this is a gap context, in which neither the positive nor negated sentence is judged true or false. Homogeneity has been treated in a variety of ways, including via implicatures, presuppositions, and three-valued logics. I first survey these approaches, then offer a novel treatment of homogeneity using truthmaker semantics. The particular truthmaker semantics framework used here is largely based on the systems in Bledin (2024, 2025), but adapted into a bilateral system in which the set of falsity-makers is not necessarily the logical negation of the set of truthmakers for a given proposition. This system is able to produce homogeneity gaps, plus non-maximality (the tendency for homogeneous sentences to be judged true in the face of a few exceptions) and the experimentally-confirmed asymmetry between non-maximality in positive vs. negative sentences.