

Semantics Group 5/7

Speaker: Yasutada Sudo (UCL)

Title. Relative Atomicity

Abstract. The standard model-theoretic approach to nominal number assumes that a model comes with an individuated domain of atomic entities and plural entities are constructed out of them as mereological sums ('Absolute Atomicity'). I argue that Absolute Atomicity has some unnatural consequences when sub-atomic quantification is taken into consideration. I advocate an alternative approach, 'Relative Atomicity', where atomicity is only introduced in the course of semantic composition.