



Logik Kolloquium

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Anaphoric Operators and Expressivity in Intensional Languages

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Abstract:

In the following example (originally brought up by Esa Saarinen in the 1970s), the very last word appears to re-establish the intensional environment created by the underlined temporal quantifier:

Every man who ever supported the Vietnam War will have to admit that now he believes that he was an idiot then.

Such anaphoric constellations can be captured by so-called backwards-looking operators that have the material in their scope depend on higher intensional operators. Backwards-looking operators are known to generally increase the expressivity of some intensional languages and have thus played a central role in debates about approaches to intensionality in terms of implicit parameters (as in modal and tense logic) vs. variables explicitly quantifying over them. This talk takes a look at these operators from a type-logical perspective. It is shown that extending Gallin's translation from Montague's intensional type logic to two-sorted type theory so as to include a version of Yanovich's backwards-looking operators, does not increase the expressive power of formulae with exclusively intensional parameters. The result is illustrated by pertinent examples from the literature. The talk closes by indicating alternative strategies of incorporating backwards-looking operators.