

Binding and person/number features: Prospects and challenges for a semantic approach

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The person and number features of bound-variable pronouns sometimes seem to be ignored by the semantics. Various authors have recently argued that in such cases the surface grammatical features of the bound pronouns are absent at the syntactic level of representation that is the input for semantic interpretation (LF), positing some syntactic feature manipulating mechanism to explain why these features nevertheless show up in the morphological spell-out of the pronoun. The goal of this presentation is two-fold. First, I present some new data that are problematic for such syntactic accounts. Secondly I want to explore how far we can push the hypothesis that pronominal person/number features are always semantically interpreted, despite many apparent counterexamples. By way of conclusion I will try to assess the relative merits of syntactic vs. semantic approaches, and discuss what I see as the main remaining challenges for a semantic account.