



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Anaphora resolved

Roelofsen, F.

Publication date
2008

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Roelofsen, F. (2008). *Anaphora resolved*.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Abstract

This dissertation is about pronominal and verb phrase anaphora in English.³ The first part of the dissertation evaluates, compares, and refines some of the most prominent theories of pronominal anaphora that have been developed within the framework of Generative Grammar (Reinhart, 1983; Heim, 1998; Fox, 1999a; Buring, 2005b; Reinhart, 2006). It is pointed out that none of these theories alone accounts for all the relevant data in a satisfactory manner. The theories of Reinhart (2006) and Fox (1999a) are refined, partly drawing on work by Ruys (1994). These refinements overcome the empirical problems, while keeping the fundamental assumptions of the original theories intact.

The second part of the dissertation, however, raises some objections against these assumptions. Eventually, an alternative theory is proposed, whose main premise is that anaphora are always contextually resolved, i.e., their meaning is always contextually determined, and not sometimes syntactically encoded, as Reinhart and many others assume. A unified analysis of pronominal and verb phrase anaphora is presented. A novel account of cascaded ellipsis, of Dahl's puzzle and of Condition B effects is proposed. The theory is argued to improve on other recent proposals (cf. Hardt, 1999; Elbourne, 2005b; Schlenker, 2005) and is shown to tie in neatly with theories of information structure and discourse coherence establishment (cf. Rooth, 1992a; Schwarzschild, 1999; Kehler, 2002).

³This short abstract is intended for specialists in the field. The preface provides a more gentle introduction, and each individual chapter comes with a summary which provides somewhat more detail than can be given here.