

Kinds continued – and where to Generalised Quantifiers come in?

The two faces of the meaning of a name



Referent determined by social naming practice Mental file card with encyclopedic information about the assumed referent of the name



Frida Kahlo
Painter
Mexican
Married to Diego Rivera
Etc.

Referent: The real person who was named “Frida Kahlo”

Mental ‘file card’: Has information about assumed referent of the name “Frida Kahlo”

Are all words names for things in the world?



“An expedient was therefore offered, that, **since words are only names for things**, it would be more convenient for all men to carry about them such things as were necessary to express a particular business they are to discourse on.”

Words that do not stand for things in the world

- *Because, not, and, or, some, all, no,*

Common nouns

- Might common nouns pick out things in the world, too?
- If so, what could they pick out?

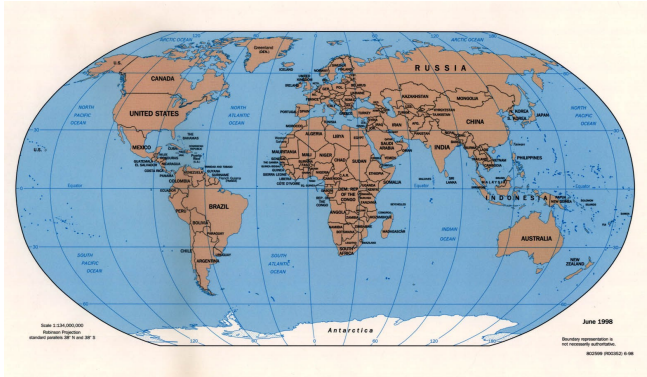
What does *water* stand for?



A proposal we've started to explore: reference to kinds

- Suppose the noun *water* denotes the kind 'water'.
- Let us think of the kind 'water' as the sum of all the water there is. A scattered individual that is composed of all the actual water there

is, and nothing else. It contains all the puddles, streams, ponds, rivers, oceans as parts, and all the water in bottles and glasses, and even the tears in your eyes,



Facts that fit

One drop of water Two glasses of water Three barrels of water
Water is H₂O

A fact that doesn't seem to fit

- (1) My cat drank water.
(1) doesn't say that my cat drank all the water there is. The noun *water* is given a partitive interpretation in (1).

The interpretation depends on the verb

- (1) My cat **drank** water.
Partitive interpretation of object.
(2) My cat **fears** water.
Kind interpretation of object.

A role for the verb?

• If the verb determines whether a bare noun object can or cannot receive a partitive interpretation, maybe the verb is responsible for bringing about that interpretation in the first place!

- (1) Mon chat a bu **de l' eau**.
My cat has drunk of the water.
My cat drank water.

- (2) Mon chat craint **l' eau**.
My cat fears the water.
My cat fears water.

Observation: In French, use of the partitive preposition *de* is obligatory for the partitive interpretation.

Tsujimura:

Sannin-no kodomo-ga uti-e kita
Three-GEN child-NOM house-to came.
Three children came to my house.

Taroo-ga sanmai-no kami-o katta.
Taro-Nom three-Gen paper-Acc bought
Taro bought three sheets of paper.

Hanako-ga sanbiki-no inu-ni esa-o yatta.
Hanako-Nom three-Gen dog-Dat food-Acc gave
Hanako gave three dogs food.

Japanese counting words

- a. san-nin three (people)
- b. san-bon three (long and cylindrical objects)
- c. san-mai three (thin and flat objects)
- d. san-genthree (houses)
- e. san-satsu three (bound objects)
- f. san-biki three (animals like dogs, cats)

Generalization:

In Japanese, numerals cannot combine directly with **any** kind of noun: You always need a classifier. The classifier determines the unit that is being counted.

- * Hanako-ga san-no inu-ni esa-o yatta.
Hanako-Nom three-Gen dog-Dat food-Acc gave
Hanako gave three dogs food.
- * San-no kodomo-ga uti-e kita
Three-GEN child-NOM house-to came.
Three children came to my house.

From Chierchia's presentation:

- if Japanese nouns denote kinds, we have an explanation for why classifiers are needed with numerals: Classifiers are necessary to specify smaller units for counting.

What about English, then?

- One **zebra** ? One **milk**
- Two **chairs** ? Two **oils**
- Three **hats** ? Three **muds**
- Four **houses** ? Four **snows**

Chierchia's proposal: count singular nouns refer to sets of singularities,
mass singular nouns refer to kinds

Angelika Kratzer proposes:

- The nouns we see in English consist of two morphemes.

ZEBRA + [singular] **ZEBRA** + [plural]
root zero-suffix root -s

Hypothesis:

- Universally, the roots of common nouns refer to kinds.
- Number inflection might modify the denotation of a root. Consequently, the English noun *zebra* might no longer refer to a kind.

What would the root of the noun *zebra* stand for, for example?
The sum of all the zebras there are, of course.

English counting words

A **host** of angels, a **herd** of elephants, a **sheaf** of arrows, a **swarm** of bees, a **flock** of birds, a **deck** of cards, a **brood** of chickens, a **school** of fish, a **bunch** of flowers, a **troop** of kangaroos, a **leap** of leopards, a **pride** of lions, a **litter** of pups, a **bundle** of rags, a **field** of runners, a **flight** of steps, a **clump** of trees, a **pack** of wolves, a **gaggle** of geese, a **pod** of seals, a **cete** of badgers...

What is a kind, anyway?

It is a proper name for a particular sort of individual – the totality individual.
So, it's like "John" or "Brown Hall"

Back to mental file-cards: if a proper name makes us pick up a file-card, that's an object, so we're saying that proper names and kinds refer to objects: so, they are of type *e*

But in Generalised Quantifier Theory, type $\langle et \rangle$

Which brings us to our next topic: type-shifting.