1 Housekeeping

Timing: Tuesdays 9:30am – 12:15pm
Room: Conference room, Linguistics Department (719 Broadway, 4th floor)
Credits: 4 points
Prerequisites: A previous graduate course in semantics or the philosophy of language

2 Subject Matter

This seminar will investigate the semantics of complex demonstratives, that is phrases like that dog with a blue collar and this table where this or that is followed by an NP. There has been much debate recently on the overall semantic shape of these items, with some theorists (e.g. Braun) claiming that they are directly referential in the sense of Kaplan, some (e.g. King) claiming that they are quantificational, some (e.g. Roberts) claiming that they are to be treated as definites in a dynamic semantics, and some (e.g. Elbourne) claiming that this and that are basically Fregean definite articles. Some of the discussion will involve presupposition and possible worlds semantics: does a sentence of the form That F is G (with speaker demonstration) express a proposition if the object demonstrated is not F? and does the object demonstrated have to be F at an arbitrary world w in order for the proposition expressed by such a sentence to be true at w? Attention will also be paid to the nature of the proximal and distal features on this and that and their translation equivalents in other languages.

3 Requirements for Registered Students

1. A class presentation lasting approximately 75 minutes on one of the articles we will be discussing, in which the main points of the article should be summarized and evaluated.

2. A class presentation on the subject of the term paper.

3. A term paper, to be handed in on Friday May 7th.
4 Provisional Syllabus

**JANUARY**
- Tue 20: Introduction, planning
  King 2001, chapter 5
- Tue 27: Kaplan 1989a

**FEBRUARY**
- Tue 3: Taylor 1980
- Tue 10: Davies 1982
  Neale 1993
- Tue 17: Richard 1993
  Braun 1994
- Tue 24: Lepore and Ludwig 2000

**MARCH**
- Tue 2: Borg 2000
  Glanzberg and Siegel 2003
- Tue 9: King 2001, chapters 1 and 2
  Johnson and Lepore 2002
- Tue 16: **SPRING RECESS**
- Tue 23: King 2001, chapters 3 and 4
- Tue 30: Roberts forthcoming (plus background on dynamic semantics)

**APRIL**
- Tue 6: Buchanan 2002
  Elbourne 2004 (plus Heim 1991)
- Tue 13: Distal and proximal features (literature TBA)
- Tue 20: Indefinite this (literature TBA)
- Tue 27: Student presentations on their papers

**Bibliography**


Elbourne, Paul. Fregean demonstrative determiners. Ms., NYU.


