D1 (Uwe Reyle): Representation of Ambiguities and their Resolution in Context: Phase I

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Overview

- Dynamic underspecified theories of discourse
- Investigate the range of phenomena such theories have to cope with
- Task of D1: Anaphora resolution with nouns and nominalisations
Overarching theme: **Ontological discrepancy between anaphoric expressions and their antecedents**

- antecedent respecification
- antecedent transformation
- antecedent reconstruction
Die Absperrung der Botschaft wurde von den Demonstranten behindert. Später ignorierten die meisten sie völlig.
‘the cordonning-off of the embassy was disturbed by the demonstrators. Later, most (of them) ignored it completely.’

Possible denotations of antecedents have to be maintained for anaphora resolution

Reemergence of ambiguity for locally disambiguated antecedents.

Contra disambiguation as elimination of interpretational variants
Antecedent transformation

(2) *In einer Gaststätte in der Innenstadt kam es wegen einer 15-jährigen zu einem heftigen Streit zwischen zwei Männern. Sie hatte sich mit einem 21-Jährigen unterhalten. Das missfiel einem 31 Jahre alten Mann so sehr dass er seinem Nebenbuhler in den Bauch trat.*

‘Two men fought because of (over) a 15-year-old girl. She had talked to a 21-year old man. A 31-year old man disapproved of this.’

- Anaphoric reference is more than simple selection of available discourse referents
- Coercion should not involve overwriting, or even deletion of information

(3)

a. no coercion: $F_{<\alpha,\beta>}(a_\alpha)$
b. what about? $H_{<\gamma,\beta>}(a_\alpha)$
c. not: $H_{<\gamma,\beta>} (a'_\gamma)$
d. rather: $H_{<\gamma,\beta>} (G_{<\alpha,\gamma>} (a_\alpha))$

‘We are yet today surprised by the conviction of G. Bruno. It was lifted only one year ago by the Catholic Church, although it had been viewed as unjust for a long time already.’

Im Hinblick auf die Verurteilung Mata Haris sagte Koopmans: “Sie hat einfach keinen fairen Prozess bekommen. Da ist noch eine ganze Menge aufzuarbeiten.”

‘Regarding the conviction of Mata Hari Koopman says: “She simply did not get a fair trial”.

Prozess (‘trial’) refers to what could be seen as a presupposition of Verurteilung (‘conviction’), the preparatory phase of the achievement.
The public interest in updated information on the air quality is growing. For this reason, the city of Heidelberg provides an automatic ozone announcement service.

In the disctrict of Schönau a fox was found which had died from canine madness. For this reason, the territory north of the Neckar was declared a rabies high-risk area.

Assumption: wegen relates facts to other abstract entities in a causal relation.

this fact has to be constructed from material in the preceding sentence.
Conclusion

Dynamic theories of discourse have to take into consideration:

- antecedent respecification
- antecedent transformation
- antecedent reconstruction
- Possible denotations of antecedents have to be maintained for anaphora resolution
- Reemergence of ambiguity for locally disambiguated antecedents.