



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 2019-20

Name of the course: Plural Semantics

Lecturer name: Moshe E. Bar-Lev

Course number:

Office hours: Tuesday, 15:00-16:00

Short course description

The goal of this course is to introduce central issues in the semantics of plurals and several ongoing debates in this domain. We will begin with the basics of plural semantics, and move on to some issues within the Syntax-Semantics interface raised by sentences with more than one plural expression, as well as arguments for the existence of pluralities outside the nominal domain. Some of the main themes we will discuss are the role of context in the interpretation of plural predication, and the interaction between plurals and logical operators (conjunction, negation).

Key words: Plurals, Semantics, Context, Logic, Collectivity, Distributivity

Course requirements:

Attendance required	no
1. Assignments	10%
2. Participation	10%
3. Presentations	20%
4. Final paper	60%

Prerequisite: Semantics B.

סילבוס מפורט של הקורס (נושאים, לוח זמנים, ספרות חובה/בחירה וכדומה)

Topics:

1. Distributivity and collectivity
2. Co-distributivity and lexical cumulativity
3. Plural quantification
4. Reciprocals
5. World, event, and degree pluralities
6. Pluralities in context: Covers and Non-maximality
7. Multiplicity inferences
8. Homogeneity

Bibliography:

Basic reading material:

Champollion, L. and M. Krifka (2016). Mereology. In *Cambridge handbook of semantics*. Cambridge University Press.

Dowty, D. (1987). Collective predicates, distributive predicates and *all*. In *Proceedings of the 3rd ESCOL*, pp. 97-115.

Link, G. (1983). The logical analysis of plurals and mass terms: A lattice theoretical approach. In R. B auerle, C. Schwarze, and A. von Stechow (Eds.), *Meaning, use, and interpretation of language*, pp. 127-144. Walter de Gruyter.

Nouwen, R. (2016). Plurality. In M. Aloni and P. Dekker (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Formal Semantics*, pp. 267-284. Cambridge University Press.

Optional reading material:

Beck, S. and U. Sauerland (2000). Cumulation is needed: A reply to winter (2000). *Natural language semantics* 8(4), 349-371.

Brisson, C. (2003). Plurals, all, and the nonuniformity of collective predication. *Linguistics and philosophy* 26(2), 129-184.

Champollion, L. (2016). Ten men and women got married today: Noun coordination and the intersective theory of conjunction. *Journal of Semantics* 33(3), 561-622.

Dalrymple, M., M. Kanazawa, Y. Kim, S. Mchombo, and S. Peters (1998). Reciprocal expressions and the concept of reciprocity. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 21(2), 159-210.

Dotla il, J. and R. Nouwen (2016). The comparative and degree pluralities. *Natural Language Semantics* 24(1), 45-78.

Kratzer, A. (2007). On the plurality of verbs. *Event structures in linguistic form and interpretation*, 269-300.

Kri , M. (2016). Homogeneity, non-maximality, and all. *Journal of Semantics* 33, 1-47.

Landman, F. (1996). Plurality. In S. Lappin (Ed.), *Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*, pp. 425-458. Blackwell.

Landman, F. (2000). *Events and plurality: The Jerusalem lectures*. Springer, Dordrecht.

Malamud, S. A. (2012). The meaning of plural definites: A decision-theoretic approach. *Semantics and Pragmatics* 5(3), 1-58.

Schwarzschild, R. (1996). *Pluralities*. Springer Science & Business Media.

Spector, B. (2007). Aspects of the pragmatics of plural morphology: On higherorder implicatures. In *Presupposition and implicature in compositional semantics*, pp. 243-281. Springer.

Winter, Y. (2002). Atoms and sets: A characterization of semantic number. *Linguistic Inquiry* 33(3), 493-505.

Winter, Y. and R. Scha (2015). *Plurals*, Chapter 3, pp. 77-113. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.