

# Semantics & Discourse

— Adnominal Modification —

Philippe de Groot

- 1 Adjectives
- 2 Relative clauses

# Intersective adjectives

## Abstract language

ERIC : NP

REBECCA : NP

EVERYBODY : NP

SOMEBODY : NP

MAN : N

WOMAN : N

EVERY : N  $\rightarrow$  NP

A : N  $\rightarrow$  NP

FRENCH : N  $\rightarrow$  N

LOVES : NP  $\rightarrow$  NP  $\rightarrow$  S

# Intersective adjectives

## Semantic interpretation

$$\mathbf{N} := e \rightarrow t$$

$$\mathbf{NP} := (e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t$$

$$\mathbf{S} := t$$

$$\mathbf{ERIC} := \lambda k. k \mathbf{e}$$

$$\mathbf{REBECCA} := \lambda k. k \mathbf{r}$$

$$\mathbf{EVERYBODY} := \lambda k. \forall x. k x$$

$$\mathbf{SOMEBODY} := \lambda k. \exists x. k x$$

$$\mathbf{MAN} := \lambda x. \mathbf{man} x$$

$$\mathbf{WOMAN} := \lambda x. \mathbf{woman} x$$

$$\mathbf{EVERY} := \lambda n. \lambda m. \forall x. (n x) \rightarrow (m x)$$

$$\mathbf{A} := \lambda n. \lambda m. \exists x. (n x) \wedge (m x)$$

$$\mathbf{FRENCH} := \lambda n. \lambda x. (n x) \wedge (\mathbf{french} x)$$

$$\mathbf{LOVES} := \lambda o. \lambda s. s (\lambda x. o (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} x y))$$

where:  $\mathbf{french} : e \rightarrow t$

# Nonintersective adjectives

## paradoxical inferences

Rebecca is a French woman.

Rebecca is a violinist.

---

Therefore Rebecca is a French violinist.

# Nonintersective adjectives

## paradoxical inferences

Rebecca is a French woman.

Rebecca is a violinist.

---

Therefore Rebecca is a French violinist.

Eric is a skillful surgeon.

Eric is a violinist.

---

? Therefore Eric is a skillful violinist.

# Classification

## Adjective classification

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- **Intersective:** *French, sick, carnivorous, red, ...*

$$[[\text{ADJ} + \text{N}]] = [[\text{ADJ}]] \cap [[\text{N}]]$$



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- **Intersective:** *French, sick, carnivorous, red, ...*

$$[[\text{ADJ} + \text{N}]] = [[\text{ADJ}]] \cap [[\text{N}]]$$

- **Subjective** but non intersective: *typical, recent, skillful, ...*

$$[[\text{ADJ} + \text{N}]] \subset [[\text{N}]]$$

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- **Privative:** *fake, former, spurious, ...*

$$[\text{ADJ} + \text{N}] \cap [\text{N}] = \emptyset$$

- **Plain nonsubjective:** *alleged, arguable, putative, ...*

$$[\text{ADJ} + \text{N}] \not\subset [\text{N}]$$

# Classification

Meaning postulates

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$$\text{INT}(A) = \exists P. \forall Q x. A Q x \equiv (P x \wedge Q x)$$

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- **Privative:**

$$\text{PRIV}(A) = \forall Q x. A Q x \rightarrow \neg(Q x)$$

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$$\text{PRIV}(A) = \forall Q x. A Q x \rightarrow \neg(Q x)$$

Beware!!!! Some intensionality involved!



# Relative clauses

## Abstract language

ERIC : NP

REBECCA : NP

EVERYBODY : NP

SOMEBODY : NP

MAN : N

WOMAN : N

EVERY :  $N \rightarrow NP$

A :  $N \rightarrow NP$

FRENCH :  $N \rightarrow N$

LOVES :  $NP \rightarrow NP \rightarrow S$

WHO :  $(NP \rightarrow S) \rightarrow N \rightarrow N$

# Relative clauses

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$$\mathbf{FRENCH} := \lambda n. \lambda x. (n x) \wedge (\mathbf{french} x)$$

$$\mathbf{LOVES} := \lambda o. \lambda s. s (\lambda x. o (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} x y))$$

$$\mathbf{WHO} := \lambda r. \lambda n. \lambda x. (n x) \wedge (r (\lambda k. k x))$$

# Example

Every man who loves Rebecca loves a woman

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Every man who loves Rebecca loves a woman

LOVES (A WOMAN) (EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN))

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Every man who loves Rebecca loves a woman

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{LOVES (A WOMAN) (EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN))} \\
 = & (\lambda o s. s (\lambda x. o (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y))) \\
 & \qquad \qquad \qquad (\text{A WOMAN}) (\text{EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN))}
 \end{aligned}$$

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LOVES (A WOMAN) (EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN))

=  $(\lambda o s. s (\lambda x. o (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)))$

(A WOMAN) (EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN))

$\rightarrow_{\beta}$  EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN)  $(\lambda x. \mathbf{A \ WOMAN} (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y))$

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 & \rightarrow_{\beta} \text{EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN) } (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 & = (\lambda n m. \forall x. (n \ x) \rightarrow (m \ x)) \\
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 & \rightarrow_{\beta} \text{EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN) } (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} x y)) \\
 & = (\lambda n m. \forall x. (n x) \rightarrow (m x)) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN}) (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} x y)) \\
 & \rightarrow_{\beta} \forall x. (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN } x) \rightarrow ((\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} x y)) x)
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 & \quad \quad \quad (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN}) (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \text{love } x y)) \\
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 & \rightarrow_{\beta} \text{EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN) } (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 & = (\lambda n m. \forall x. (n \ x) \rightarrow (m \ x)) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN}) (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 & \rightarrow_{\beta} \forall x. (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN } x) \rightarrow ((\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) x) \\
 & \rightarrow_{\beta} \forall x. (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN } x) \rightarrow (\text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 & = \forall x. ((\lambda r n x. (n \ x) \wedge (r (\lambda k. k \ x))) (\text{LOVES REBECCA) MAN } x) \\
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 & \quad \quad \quad (\text{A WOMAN}) (\text{EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN)}) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} & \text{EVERY (WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN) } (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 & = (\lambda n m. \forall x. (n \ x) \rightarrow (m \ x)) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN}) (\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} & \forall x. (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN } \ x) \rightarrow ((\lambda x. \text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \ x) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} & \forall x. (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN } \ x) \rightarrow (\text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 & = \forall x. ((\lambda r n x. (n \ x) \wedge (r (\lambda k. k \ x))) (\text{LOVES REBECCA) MAN } \ x) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \rightarrow (\text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} & \forall x. (\text{MAN } \ x) \wedge (\text{LOVES REBECCA } (\lambda k. k \ x)) \rightarrow (\text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y))
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 & = (\lambda n m. \forall x. (n x) \rightarrow (m x)) \\
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 \rightarrow_{\beta} & \forall x. (\text{WHO (LOVES REBECCA) MAN } x) \rightarrow (\text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \text{love } x y)) \\
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 \rightarrow_{\beta} & \forall x. (\text{MAN } x) \wedge (\text{LOVES REBECCA } (\lambda k. k x)) \rightarrow (\text{A WOMAN } (\lambda y. \text{love } x y)) \\
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 \rightarrow_{\beta} &\forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge (\mathbf{loves} \ x \ \mathbf{r}) \rightarrow (\exists y. (\mathbf{WOMAN} \ y) \wedge ((\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y) \ y))
 \end{aligned}$$

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 \rightarrow_{\beta} &\forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge (\mathbf{loves} \ x \ \mathbf{r}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{A \ WOMAN} \ (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 &= \forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge (\mathbf{loves} \ x \ \mathbf{r}) \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad \rightarrow ((\lambda n m. \exists y. (n \ y) \wedge (m \ y)) \mathbf{WOMAN} \ (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} &\forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge (\mathbf{loves} \ x \ \mathbf{r}) \rightarrow (\exists y. (\mathbf{WOMAN} \ y) \wedge ((\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y) \ y)) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} &\forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge (\mathbf{loves} \ x \ \mathbf{r}) \rightarrow (\exists y. (\mathbf{WOMAN} \ y) \wedge (\mathbf{love} \ x \ y))
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# Example

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 &= \forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge ((\lambda o s. s \ (\lambda x. o \ (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y))) \mathbf{REBECCA} \ (\lambda k. k \ x)) \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad \rightarrow (\mathbf{A \ WOMAN} \ (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y)) \\
 \rightarrow_{\beta} &\forall x. (\mathbf{man} \ x) \wedge ((\lambda k. k \ x) (\lambda x. \mathbf{REBECCA} \ (\lambda y. \mathbf{love} \ x \ y))) \\
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# Appositive relative clause



# Appositive relative clause

## Example

Eric, who loves Rebecca, is a happy man.

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## Abstract syntax

WHO :  $(NP \rightarrow S) \rightarrow NP \rightarrow NP$

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## Semantic interpretation

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