24.910 Topics in Linguistic Theory: Propositional Attitudes
Spring 2009

1. Solutions to exercises for last week

2. *Think…might* exercise

(1)   Sue thinks it might be raining.

(2)   Joe thinks that Bush might be president.

❖ **Truth Conditions of (1)-(2)**

   ➢ Entailments?

   ➢ What possibilities does Sue / Joe entertain?

❖ **Compositional semantics**

   ➢ $[\![\text{X thinks that might } \phi]\!]^{w} =$

   ➢ $[\![\text{think-might}]\!]^{w} =$

   ➢ Accessibility relation?

❖ **Advanced steps**

Next steps: How might we try to tease apart the contribution of *think* and the contribution of *might*?

     ▪ $[\![\text{might } \phi]\!]^{w} =$

   Would we need to revise *think*?

     ▪ $[\![\text{X thinks } \phi]\!] =$

3. Inference Patterns with Propositional Attitudes

[Note: Not all of these express attitudes, but most are intensional]

❖ **Factive Predicates**

➢ **PRED p** 》 **p**

➢ **OP [PRED p]** 》 **p**

[OP = negation, question operator, …]

Examples:

- *know*
- *realize*
- *regret*
- *be glad to*
- *be proud to*

- *be lucky to*
- *forget (that)*
- *resent*
- *make clear*
- *find out*

- *discover*
- *see*
- *notice*

❖ **Implicative Predicates**

➢ **PRED p** 》 **p**

➢ **OP [PRED p]** 》 **OP p**

Examples:

- *manage*
- *remember*
- *bother*
- *get*
- *dare*
- *care*

- *venture*
- *condescend*
- *happen*
- *see fit*
- *be careful*
- *have the misfortune*

- *have the sense*
- *take the time*
- *take the opportunity*
- *take the trouble*
- *take it upon oneself*

❖ **Negative Implicative Predicates**

➢ **PRED p** 》 **NOT p**

➢ **OP [PRED p]** 》 **OP [NOT p]**

Examples:

- *forget*
- *fail*

- *neglect*
- *decline*

- *avoid*
- *refrain*

❖ **Discussion**

➢ Additional properties

➢ Counterexamples to above patterns

➢ Effect of tense, mood, aspect