

TWO KINDS OF PERSPECTIVE TAKING IN NARRATIVE TEXTS

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Introduction

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting– Open Questions

- In this talk, I will argue for the existence of two distinct kinds of protagonists' perspective taking in narrative texts.
- First kind: *Free Indirect Discourse*, where context with respect to which various expressions are interpreted is shifted to a fictional protagonist's context.
- Second kind, *Viewpoint Shifting*, does not involve context-shifting.
- Rather, situation described as perceived by a protagonist or in a way that reflects doxastic state of a protagonist, not with respect to Common Ground (CG) of narrator and reader.

Free Indirect Discourse

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

- *Free Indirect Discourse* (FID) widely recognized as mode of presenting protagonists' thoughts or utterances that is distinct from both *Direct Discourse* (DD) and *Indirect Discourse* (ID).
 - (1) a. Mary smiled. Tomorrow she would reveal her true identity at the press conference.
 - b. Mary smiled. She thought: “Tomorrow I will reveal my true identity at the press conference”.
 - c. Mary smiled. She thought that on the following day she would reveal her true identity at the press conference.

Free Indirect Discourse

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- (1) a. Mary smiled. **Tomorrow she would** reveal **her** true identity at the press conference.
- b. Mary smiled. She thought: “**Tomorrow I will** reveal **my** true identity at the press conference”.
- c. Mary smiled. She thought that **on the following day she would** reveal **her** true identity at the press conference.
- In FID, pronouns and tenses interpreted as if sentence was in ID mode, while all other context-sensitive expressions interpreted as if it was in DD mode (Banfield 1982, Doron 1991, Schlenker 2004, Sharvit 2008, Eckardt 2014, Maier 2015, to appear).

Free Indirect Discourse

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- Not only temporal or local adverbials, but evaluative expressions such as epithets, speech act particles or speech acts like exclamations in FID interpreted with respect to protagonist's perspective.
 - (2) a. John felt uneasy. **He didn't** want to be in this room with all **these arrogant idiots** staring at **him**.
b. John felt uneasy. He thought: "**I don't** want to be in this room with all **these arrogant** idiots staring at **me**".

Free Indirect Discourse

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- (3) a. Kate was very satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations. **How smart she was!** So much smarter than any of **these amateurs**.
- b. Kate was very satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations. She thought: “**How smart I am!** So much smarter than any of **these amateurs**.”

Free Indirect Discourse

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- Schlenker (2004), Sharvit (2008) and Eckardt (2014): Expressions not only interpretable with respect to speaker's/narrator's context C , but also with respect to fictional context c of some prominent protagonist.
- Author of c = respective protagonist. Time of c = Reference time of ongoing story. Location of c = Location of protagonist at reference time.
- Maier (2015, to appear): FID a form of mixed quotation.
- Accommodated speech or thought act quoted, with pronouns and verbal tense being unquoted.

Free Indirect Discourse

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- On first type of approach lexically specified that all context-sensitive expressions except pronouns and verbal tenses are interpreted with respect to c whenever c is introduced in addition to C .
- On Maier's (2015, to appear) approach pragmatically driven convention in effect in FID.

Free Indirect Discourse

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- Protagonists' contexts required for FID cannot be introduced by *when*-clauses:
 - (4) a. On her way home, Mary heard a new song by Kendrick Lamar that she liked on the radio. She would buy his new album tomorrow.
 - b. *When Mary heard a new song by Kendrick Lamar that she liked on the radio on her way home, she would buy his new album tomorrow.
 - c. When Mary heard a new song by Kendrick Lamar that she liked on the radio on her way home, she thought: “I will buy his new album tomorrow”.
 - d. When Mary heard a new song by Kendrick Lamar on the radio on her way home, she thought that she would buy his new album on the following day.

Free Indirect Discourse

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- (5) a. Charles stood at the beach, watching the sea waves crushing up and down. It would have been great to live here with his wife and kids.
- b. *When Charles stood at the beach, watching the sea waves crushing up and down, it would have been great to live here with his wife and kids.
- c. When Charles stood at the beach, watching the sea waves crushing up and down, he thought: “It would be great to live here with my wife and kids”.
- d. When Charles stood at the beach, watching the sea waves crushing up and down, he thought that it would have been great to live there with his wife and kids.

Viewpoint Shifting

- With that constraint in mind, consider the sentence in italics in (6).
- (6) I wanted to be home in case he came back early, made it in time ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.*
(D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

Viewpoint Shifting

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(6) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.*

(D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- Main clause in bold clearly describes situation from perspective of ego-narrator's brother, Toph.
- First reason: It would be very strange for the ego-narrator to refer to himself via *his brother*.
- Second reason: Ego-narrator obviously knows proposition denoted by main clause to be false.

Viewpoint Shifting

(6) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.*

(D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- Still, good reasons to assume that no FID involved.
- First, event providing spatial and temporal parameter for *c* would be contained in *when*-clause.

Viewpoint Shifting

(6)... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there/#here, of course had been there/#here the whole time, of course had never left.*

(D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- Second, *there* could be replaced by *here* if sentence were in FID mode, since with the exception of pronouns and verbal tenses indexicals behave as in DD in FID.

(7) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home he thought: “My brother is there/ here, of course has been there/here the whole time, of course has never left”.*

Viewpoint Shifting

(6)... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there/#here, of course had been there/#here the whole time, of course had never left.*

(D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- When it is in FID-mode, in contrast, *there* has to be used, as shown in (8).

(8) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home he thought that his brother was there/#here, of course had been there/#here the whole time, of course had never left.*

Viewpoint Shifting

- (9) a. [The T-Rex] hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. ?[A T-Rex]/[The T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.
- b. [The T-Rex] hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. When Billy looked up in his hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex]/[the T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.
- While in (9a) indefinite cannot be interpreted as picking up individual referred to by definite description, in (9b) possible.
 - In (9a) CG of speaker and narrator relevant. With respect to that CG, using indefinite when presupposition of definite description is satisfied would violate *Maximize Presupposition!* (Heim 1991).

Viewpoint Shifting

(9) b.[The T-Rex] hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. *When Billy looked up in his hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.*

- In (9b), in contrast, *when*-clauses licenses shift in perspective.
- Consequently, not CG of narrator and reader relevant for interpretation of indefinite, but doxastic state of Billy.
- With respect to that state, presupposition of definite not satisfied, and indefinite can be used without violating *Maximize Presupposition!*

Viewpoint Shifting

(9) b.[The T-Rex]_i hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. *When Billy_j looked up in his_j hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.*

- Intuitively, main clause in final sentence in (9b) not interpreted as content of a conscious thought of Billy.
- Rather, what he sees is described in a way that is compatible with his doxastic state at that time.

Viewpoint Shifting

- Evidence for two different kinds of shifts to protagonists' perspective in narrative texts: FID and *Viewpoint Shifting* (VS).
- In FID, speech or thought act of some salient protagonist accommodated.
- On Maier's (2015, to appear) account, that speech or thought act is partially quoted.
- Since only independent sentences can be interpreted as speech or thought acts, contrasts like those between (4a)/(5a), on the one hand, and (4b)/(5b), on the other, to be expected.

Viewpoint Shifting

- Alternatively, one could assume that accommodated speech or thought act is precondition for introduction of second context c in addition to narrator's context C (Schlenker 2004, Sharvit 2008, Eckardt 2014) – namely fictional context in which respective speech or thought act has occurred.
- Temporal and spatial parameters of c provided by eventuality introduced by preceding sentence.

Viewpoint Shifting

- VS not restricted to force level, since no speech or thought act accommodated and no additional context introduced.
- Rather, situation described in a way that is compatible with doxastic state of protagonist at the time of him or her perceiving the relevant situation.
- Time of accommodated perceiving event determined by locally prominent eventuality – in cases considered left-adjoined *when*-clause.

Viewpoint Shifting

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

- Assumption: Just like everything that all interlocuters perceive consciously during a conversation becomes part of their CG, everything a protagonist in a narrative text perceives consciously becomes part of the set of propositions representing his/her beliefs at the relevant time.
- Under certain conditions, content of a clause not added to CG directly, but rather to set of propositions representing doxastic state of a prominent protagonist.

Viewpoint Shifting

- Possible implementation: Covert operator optionally inserted at TP-node of finite clauses, turning an eventuality predicate P into a predicate of eventualities of perceiving e_1 .
- Further properties of e_1 determined by context and experiencer of e_1 some contextually determined prominent individual x .
- Crucially, in all worlds representing doxastic state of x at the time immediately following (the run time of) e_1 , there is an eventuality e satisfying P .
- Presupposition: P is not true in all worlds representing the doxastic state of x prior to e_1 .

Viewpoint Shifting

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

(10) $[[OP_{VS} \ 1 \ C_2]]^{g,C} =$

$$\begin{aligned} &\lambda P_{\langle ev, \langle s, t \rangle \rangle} . \lambda e . \lambda w . PERC(e)(w) \wedge g(C_2)(e)(w) \\ &\quad \wedge \text{Experiencer}(e, g(1))(w) \\ &\quad \wedge \forall w' \in DOX_{(g(1))(\tau(e)+)(w)} \\ &\quad \quad [\exists e' [P(e')(w) \wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e), \tau(e'))]] \end{aligned}$$

Viewpoint Shifting

- First, contextually prominent individual has to be available as experiencer of e_I and further properties of e_I have to be determined.
- Consequently, required information has to be contextually available.
- Finally, since insertion of VS-operator presumably costly, there has to be some reason for inserting it, i.e. perceiving eventuality has to have an effect on doxastic state of respective individual.
- In cases considered so far introduction of VS-operator furthermore required since otherwise inadequate interpretation of respective sentence.

Viewpoint Shifting

(11) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.* (D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- In case of sentence in bold in (11) all conditions satisfied.
- First, interpretation of main clause would be inadequate without insertion of VS-operator since ego-narrator
 - (a) cannot refer to himself as *his brother* and
 - (b) knows that proposition denoted by main clause is false.

Viewpoint Shifting

(11) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.* (D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- Second, individual variable can be resolved to ego-narrator's brother.
- Being the agent of the locally highly prominent event introduced by the *when*-clause makes him a very suitable candidate.

Viewpoint Shifting

(11) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.* (D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- Third, information concerning further specification of perceiving eventuality indirectly made available by events introduced by preceding sentence in combination with one introduced by *when*-clause.
- Presumably eventuality of seeing his brother lying in bed and sleeping.

Viewpoint Shifting

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

(11) ... The house was empty, and I dove into bed, fell back asleep, and *when he came back home his brother was there, of course had been there the whole time, of course had never left.* (D. Eggers, AHWOSG: 112, cited in B. Dancygier 2012: 62).

- Assumption: Prior to perceiving event only true in all worlds compatible with Toph's assumptions concerning stereotypical course of events that his brother is home and has been home all night.
- After perceiving event true in *all* of his belief worlds.

Viewpoint Shifting

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

(11) ... when he came back home *his brother was there, (of course) had been there the whole time ...*

- VS-operator thus adjoined to main clause TP, taking eventuality predicate denoted by that clause as argument.

(12)

$$\lambda P_{\langle \text{ev}, \langle s, t \rangle \rangle} . \lambda e . \lambda w . \text{PERC}(e)(w) \wedge \text{see}(e)(w) \wedge \text{Exp}(e, \text{toph})(w) \\ \wedge \forall w' \in \text{DOX}_{(\text{toph})(\tau(e)+)(w)} [\exists e' [P(e')(w) \wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e), \tau(e'))]] .$$

$$(\lambda e . \lambda w . \text{home}(e, \iota x . \text{brother}(x, \text{toph})(w))(w) \wedge \tau(e) < t_0 \\ \wedge \forall t \in T_C [\exists e' [\text{home}(e', \iota x . \text{brother}(x, \text{toph})(w))(w) \wedge \tau(e') \subseteq t \wedge \tau(e') < \tau(e)]] =$$

$$\lambda e . \lambda w . \text{PERC}(e)(w) \wedge \text{see}(e)(w) \wedge \text{Exp}(e, \text{toph})(w) \\ \wedge \forall w' \in \text{DOX}_{(\text{toph})(\tau(e)+)(w)} [\exists e' [\text{home}(e', \iota x . \text{brother}(x, \text{toph})(w'))(w') \\ \wedge \tau(e) < t_0 \wedge \forall t \in T_C [\exists e'' [\text{home}(e'', \iota x . \text{brother}(x, \text{toph})(w))(w) \wedge \tau(e'') \subseteq t \\ \wedge \tau(e'') < \tau(e')]] \wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e), \tau(e'))]] .$$

Viewpoint Shifting

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

(11) ... *when he came back home his brother was there, (of course) had been there the whole time ...*

Combining that eventuality predicate with the one denoted by the *when*-clause gives us (13):

(13) $\lambda w . \exists e \exists e' [\text{come_home}(e)(w) \wedge \text{Agent}(e, \text{toph})(w) \wedge \tau(e) < t_0$
 $\wedge \text{PERC}(e')(w) \wedge \text{see}(e')(w) \wedge \text{Exp}(e', \text{toph})(w)$
 $\wedge \forall w' \in \text{DOX}_{(\text{toph})(\tau(e)+)(w)} [\exists e'' [\text{home}(e'', \iota x. \text{brother}(x, \text{toph})(w'))(w')$
 $\wedge \tau(e'') < t_0 \wedge \forall t \in T_C [\exists e''' [\text{home}(e''', \iota x. \text{brother}(x, \text{toph})(w))(w)$
 $\wedge \tau(e''') \subseteq t \wedge \tau(e''') < \tau(e'')]] \wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e'), \tau(e''))$
 $\wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e), \tau(e'))]]$

- Since story told from perspective of ego-narrator, set of worlds denoted by entire sentence intersected with set of worlds compatible with ego-narrator's beliefs.

Viewpoint Shifting

(14) [The T-Rex] hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. *When Billy looked up in his hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.*

- Concerning sentence in bold in (14), conditions for insertion of VS-operator likewise fulfilled.
- First, interpreting indefinite as picking up T-Rex referred to by definite would violate *Maximize Presupposition!*
- Second, individual variable can be resolved to Billy since being the agent of event introduced by *when*-clause makes him locally highly prominent.

Viewpoint Shifting

(14) [The T-Rex] hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. *When Billy looked up in his hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.*

- Third, information concerning further specification of perceiving eventuality made available by events introduced by preceding sentence in combination with one introduced by *when*-clause and event introduced by main clause itself.
- Obviously event of Billy seeing event introduced by main clause.

Viewpoint Shifting

(14) [The T-Rex] hesitated. Maybe the little dinosaurs had hidden themselves in the cave on his left. *When Billy looked up in his hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave and squinted into the dark.*

- Finally, clear connection between proposition being true in all worlds representing Billy's doxastic state at time of e' and what he sees in e' since before seeing main clause event worlds do not include such an event.

Viewpoint Shifting

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(14) ... When Billy looked up in his hiding place a few seconds later, [a T-Rex] bent down to the entrance of the cave ...

- After insertion of VS-operator entire sentence thus interpreted as shown in (15).

(15) $\lambda w . \exists e \exists e' [\text{look_up}(e)(w) \wedge \text{Agent}(e, \text{billy})(w) \wedge \tau(e) < t_0$
 $\wedge \text{PERC}(e')(w) \wedge \text{see}(e')(w) \wedge \text{Experiencer}(e', \text{billy})(w)$
 $\wedge \forall w' \in \text{DOX}_{(\text{billy})(\tau(e')+)(w)}$
 $[\exists e'' \exists x [\text{T-Rex}(x)(w') \wedge \text{bend_down}(e'')(w') \wedge \text{Agent}(e'', x)(w')$
 $\wedge \tau(e'') < t_0 \wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e'), \tau(e''))]]]$

Open Questions

- As already observed by Montague (1970), predicates such as *see* have non-veridical uses in addition to their standard veridical uses.
- Sentence in (16), for example, has a reading on which it does not entail the existence of unicorns.

(16) Angela saw a unicorn.

- Maybe not lexical ambiguity involved, but rather instances of VS.

Open Questions

(16) Angela saw a unicorn.

- Sentence would thus be interpreted as shown in (17).

(17) $\lambda w . \exists e[\text{PERC}(e)(w) \wedge \text{see}(e)(w) \wedge \text{Experiencer}(e, \text{angela})(w)$
 $\wedge \forall w' \in \text{DOX}_{(\text{angela})(\tau(e)+)(w)} [\exists e' \exists x[\text{unicorn}(x)(w') \wedge \text{see}(e')(w')$
 $\wedge \text{Experiencer}(e', \text{angela})(w') \wedge \text{Theme}(e', x)(w') \wedge \tau(e') < t_0$
 $\wedge \text{overlap}(\tau(e), \tau(e'))]]]$

- Raises the question of whether the conditions under which non-veridical uses of such predicates are available are identical to those under which VS is available.

Open Questions

Introduction – Free Indirect Discourse – Viewpoint Shifting – Open Questions

- Second question concerns the range of expressions that can be shifted in VS as opposed to FID.
- We have seen that indexical expressions such as *here*, *tomorrow* etc. cannot be shifted in VS.
- But what about epithets, speech act particles etc.?
- In particular, is the behavior of perspective-dependent expressions in VS identical to ID?

References

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