CS6742: NLP and Social Interaction, Fall 2015 Sept. 8, 2015: Introduction to discourse analysis: Examples

- 1. Anaphora as a clue to hidden sentence structure
 - 1(a) Jill blames herself
 - 1(b) *Jill blames himself
 - 1(c) *Jill thinks Bob blames herself
 - 1(d) Mary confronted Marcy all by herself
- **2.** Anaphora as a clue to the strength of semantic constraints vs. discourse constraints. Allen's (1995, pg. 435) adaptation of Wilks [1975]. (Also discussed in Hirst [1981, pg. 55].)

John drank the wine on the table. It was brown and round.

3. Anaphora as a clue to hidden discourse structure. Adapted from Sidner [1979].

3(a)

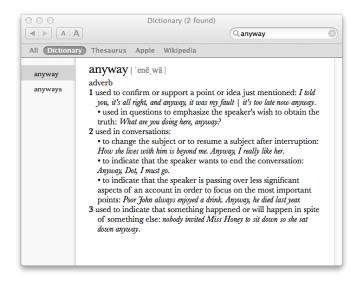
- 1. Albert is a nice guy but a little clueless.
- 2. He told me he was sending me a book, but he sent it by surface mail.
- 3. It was actually a pretty interesting book —
- 4. apparently there's a weird new theory involving "sideways" quarks.
- 5. Anyway, I finally got it about two weeks ago.

3**(b)**

- 1. Albert is a nice guy but a little clueless.
- 2. He told me he was sending me a book, but he sent it by surface mail.
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3(**c**)

- 1. Albert is a nice guy but a little clueless.
- 2. He told me he was sending me a book, but he sent it by surface mail.
- 3. It was actually a pretty interesting book —
- 4. apparently there's a weird new theory involving "sideways" quarks.
- 5. Anyway, I finally got it about two weeks ago.
- 6. They've been fundamental to understanding the "new relativity".



- **4.** Credited by Grosz and Sidner [1986] to Polanyi and Scha "forthcoming", although the published versions of Polanyi and Scha that I was able to find give a similar but longer discourse.
 - 4(a) John came by and left the groceries.
 - 4(**b**) Stop that you kids.
 - 4(c) And I put them away after he left.
- **5.** From Grishman [1986, pg. 157].
 - A: Do you know when the train to Boston leaves?
 - B: Yes.
 - A: I want to know when the train to Boston leaves.
 - B: I understand.

References

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