

Proper names where you don't expect them – What should we do about derived uses of proper names?

In my research I adopt the assumption that proper names are no different than common nouns. This assumption bears the name *predicativism* in the literature on proper names. For predicativists, proper names enter the syntax as property denoting expressions (Geurts 1997, Fara 2015, Matushansky 2008) (e.g. $\llbracket^{\text{NP}}\text{John}\rrbracket = \lambda x_e. x$ is called *John*) and they get their referential interpretation by combining with covert elements. I believe that predicativism can provide potential insight into the way in which proper names interact with determiners in some languages, and into the structure of proper names below the word level.

The focus of this presentation will be to present a set of data related to the structure of proper names below the word level, i.e., derived uses of proper names. Proper names can be derived into many different uses:

- Verbs (e.g.: to Clark Kent, to Stollerize)
- Nouns denoting objects (e.g.: a Picasso) (Matushansky 2015)
- Nouns denoting events (e.g.: to do a Britney) (De Clercq 2008)
- Nouns denoting entities (e.g.: a Britney Spears) (De Clercq 2008)
- Nouns denoting stereotypes (e.g.: a Karen)
- Adjectives (e.g.: Kripkean) (Lee 2020)
- Adverbs (e.g.: Donald Trump rich) (Lee 2020)

Arguably, proper names derived into verbs, nouns denoting objects, nouns denoting events, adjectives and adverbs are derived using morphology. The interpretation of these uses is closely related to a salient referent (except for the nouns denoting stereotypes) and this seems to be the first challenge for predicativism. Although no analysis will be proposed, the major questions related to this issue will be made explicit to guide future investigation on the topic.

References

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