Conditional Conjunctions in Brazilian Portuguese

Gabriel Roisenberg Rodrigues *Michigan State University*
Ezra Keshet *University of Michigan*
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The core of this talk will be the so-called "Conditional Conjunctions" (CCs; Russell 2007, Klinedinst & Rothschild 2012, Keshet 2013, a. o.) and its expression in Brazilian Portuguese (BP). Taking as a point of departure Keshet 2013, we will show that CCs in BP differ in crucial ways from English w.r.t. to Tense. Unlike English, CC constructions in BP can have mixed tenses (1). Furthermore, BP has an alternative CC construction, in which the first conjunct is headed by the copula *ser* 'to be'; in a context like the one in (1), the copula can only be inflected in the present tense (2).

(1)   Aquela escola é bem rígida: tu   chegou um minuto atrasado, e
      that   school is well rigid   you came one minute late   and
      tu é   suspenso
      you are suspended
      'That school is tough: if you arrive late, you get suspended'

(2)   Aquela escola é bem rígida: {é/ #foi} tu   chegar um minuto
      that   school is well rigid   is was you to-come one minute
      atrasado, e   tu é   suspenso.
      late   and you are suspended

We maintain Keshet's basic architecture for CCs, but modify two assumptions: (i) each conjunct in CCs has a separate TP, and (ii) there is a higher T head above the two lower TPs, encoding the "Topic Situation" (Kratzer 2014). We take (2) as an instance of agreement of the first conjunct T head with the higher (Topic Situation) T head; furthermore, we propose (3) as the denotation of (1) and (2), where s is a situation and s_t is a topic situation.

(3) $\|(1)\| = \mathrm{Gen}(x, s_t, s)(\exists s' \subseteq s : x \text{ \textbf{arrives-late}}(x)(s'))(\textbf{supended}(x)(s))$

References: Keshet, E. 2013. Focus on conditional conjunction. *Journal of Semantics* 30: 211-256. ● Klinedinst, N. & D. Rothschild. 2012. Connectives without truth tables. *Natural Language Semantics* 20: 137-175. ● Kratzer, A. 2014. Situations in natural language semantics. In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* ● Russell, B. 2007. Imperatives in conditional conjunction. *Natural Language Semantics* 15: 131-166.