

## Counting in attitudes

I show that in a single sentence like (1c), *number* can count atomic objects in the denotation of *linguists* that are construed differently, which poses a challenge for the established theories of attitude reports that base themselves on LF-ambiguity. I demonstrate that adopting the alternative view that readings of an attitude report are due to underspecification (Mayr & Schmitt 2024, 2026), implemented via concept generators (Percus & Sauerland 2003), can capture the data, with the help of a fairly simple syntax (cf. Bhatt 2002; Sauerland 2001) and a standard treatment of cumulativity (Krifka 1986; Sternefeld 1998; Beck & Sauerland 2000; a.o.). As a consequence, *number* counts individual concepts, rather than individuals.

- (1) CONTEXT: We are having a seminar. Ann and Bea are the organizers. The rule is that the seminar will be canceled if the organizers think two people are late. Ann hasn't seen Adam, the newly-hired semanticist, and mistakenly thinks that he is a philosopher and that he is late. Bea knows Adam and his occupation. She simply thinks that a syntactician in the department is late, not having anyone specific in mind. There is no syntactician in the department. There is a discussion on whether the seminar is to be canceled.
- a. ✓ *Ann thinks that a linguist is running late.* [de re]  
b. ✓ *Bea thinks that a linguist is running late.* [de dicto]  
c. ✓ *[The number of linguists that A and B think are running late] is two.*

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