

Morphosyntax & semantics – lecture 4

Major subclasses of nouns and verbs

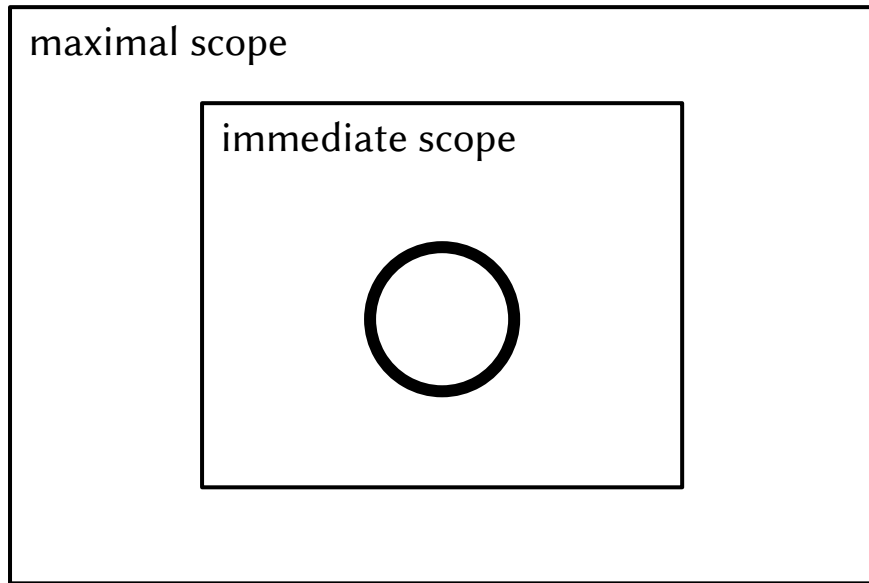
Prototypical masses

- unbounded – The boundaries are outside the immediate scope of conception.
- homogeneous – Masses are the same throughout.
- contractible – Every portion of a mass is a valid instances of the mass.
- expansible – Adding portion of mass results in the same mass.

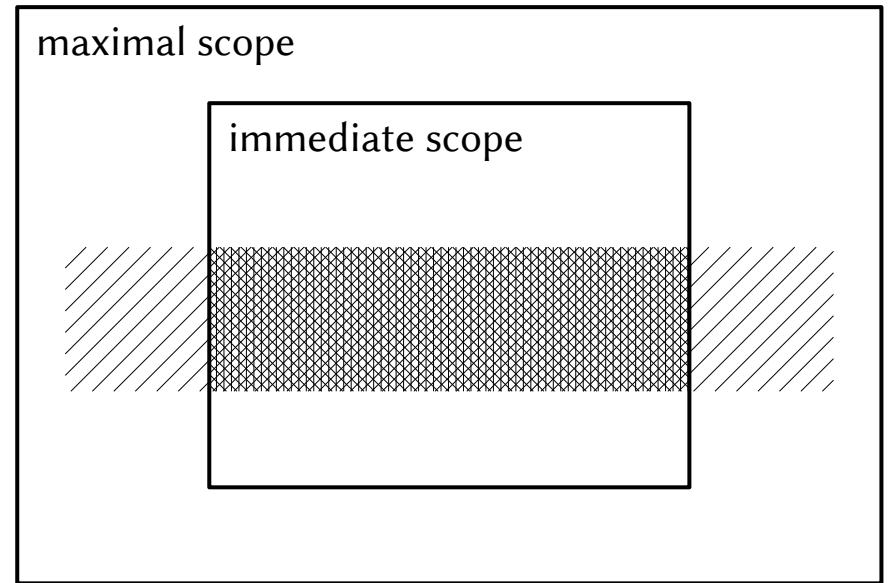
Prototypical count objects

- bounded – The boundaries are inside the immediate scope of conception.
- heterogeneous – Objects are **not** the same throughout.
- non-contractible – Portions of count objects are **not** the same as the objects.
- replicable – Count objects can be replicated; after adding another object one has a plural amount of objects.

Bounded vs. unbounded construal



bounded object (e.g. *diamond*)

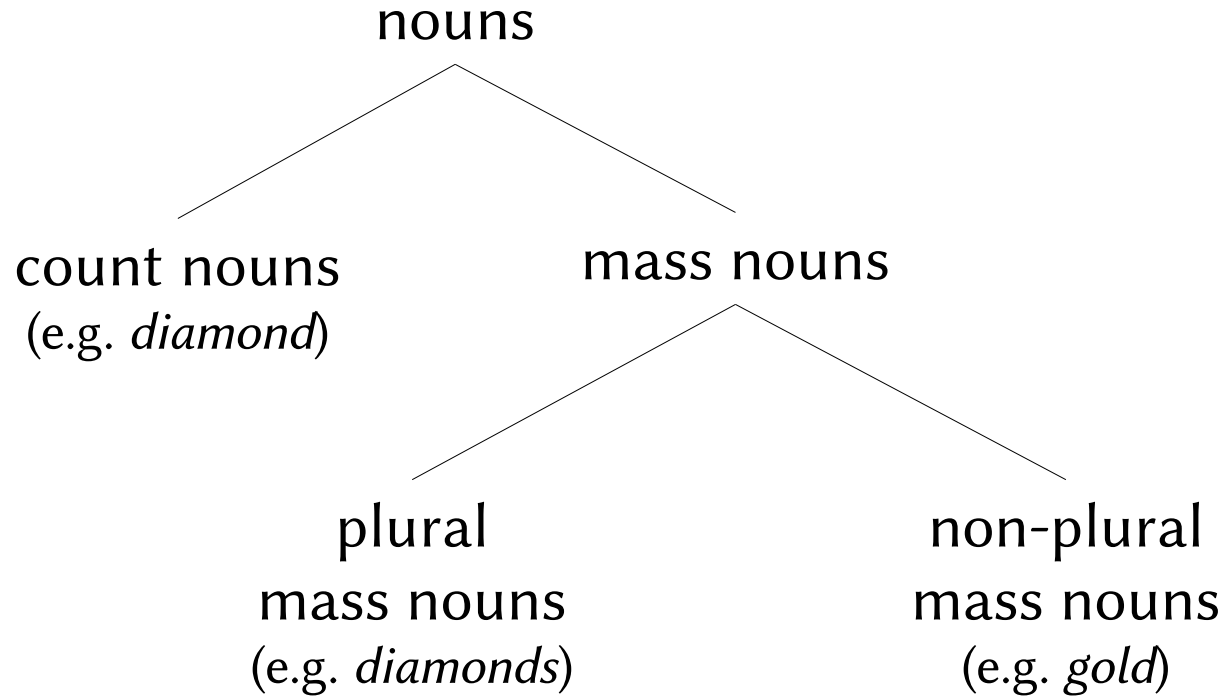


unbounded mass (e.g. *gold*)

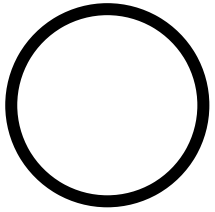
Bounded vs. unbounded water



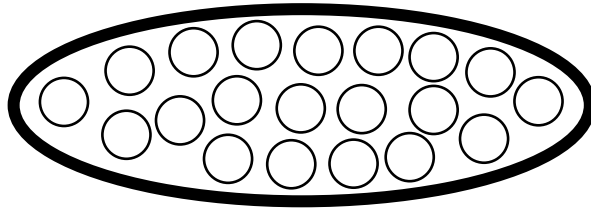
Types of nouns



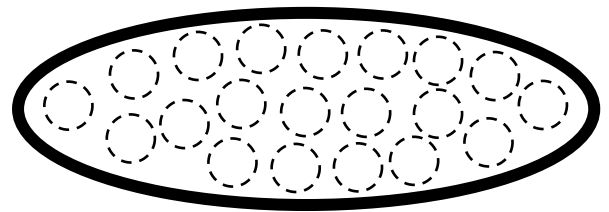
Construal behind nouns



count
noun
(e.g. *diamond*)



plural
mass noun
(e.g. *diamonds*)



non-plural
mass noun
(e.g. *gold*)

Count vs. mass nouns

Count and mass nouns display different grammatical behavior:

- (1)(a) *They're looking for* { *diamond / gold / diamonds }.
- (b) *a* { diamond / *gold / *diamonds }
- (c) *most* { *diamond / gold / diamonds }
- (d) *all* { *diamond / gold / diamonds }

Plural vs. non-plural mass nouns

Plural and non-plural masses display different grammatical behavior:

(2)(a) *those diamonds* vs. *that gold*

(b) *these diamonds* vs. *this gold*

(c) *many diamonds* vs. *much gold*

(d) *few diamonds* vs. *little gold*

(e) *several diamonds* vs. **several gold*

(f) *numerous diamonds* vs. **numerous gold*

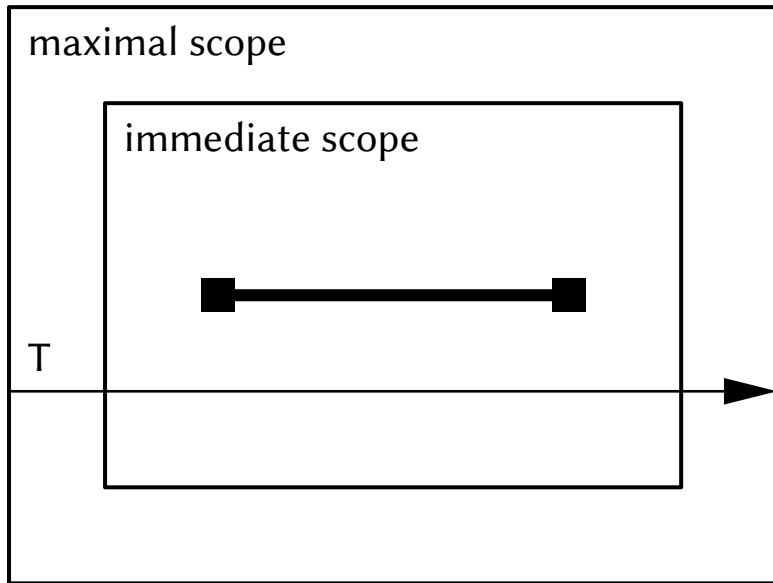
Non-standard construals

- (3) (a) *I want two lemonades and **a water**.*
- (b) *After a cat got in the way of our SUV, there was **cat** all over the driveway.*
- (c) *By mashing a dozen potatoes, you get enough **potato** for this recipe.*
- (d) *You need **a lot of lake** for a speedboat race.*
- (e) *There **is rats** chewing up the kitchen.*

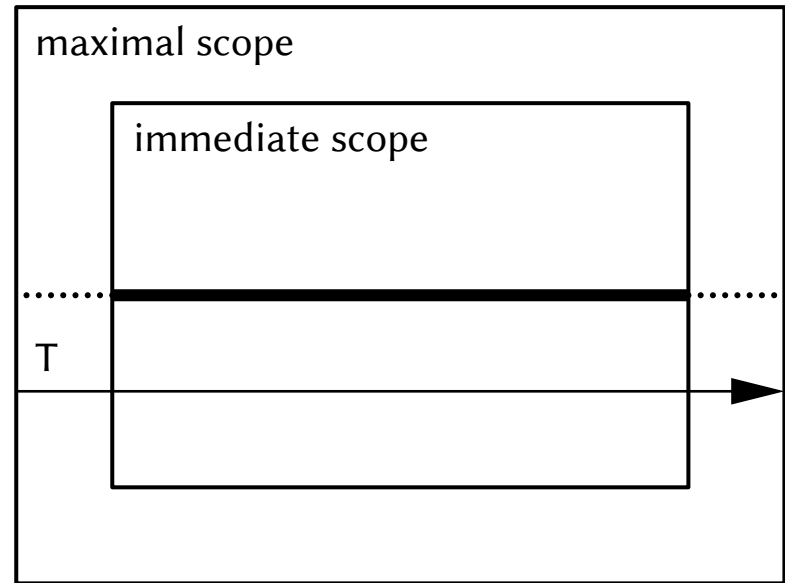
Perfective vs. imperfective verbs

- Prototypical perfective verbs profile processes bounded in time; the relations are heterogeneous over time.
 - Examples: *fall, eat, kick, die, learn, cook, disappear*
- Prototypical imperfective verbs profile processes unbounded in time; the relations are homogeneous over time.
 - Examples: *be, have, know, doubt, like, live, resemble*

Perfective vs. imperfective construal



perfective construal
(e.g. *learn*)



imperfective construal
(e.g. *know*)

Simple vs. continuous aspects

Perfective verbs sound natural in the continuous aspects;
imperfective verbs sound natural in simple aspects.

(4)(a) ?? *He **learns** the poem.*

(a') *He **is learning** the poem.*

(b) *He **knows** the poem.*

(b') ??? *He **is knowing** the poem.*

Alternative construals

(5)(a) *She is covering the hole with a picture.*

(a') *A picture covers the hole.*

(b) *We are connecting the wires.*

(b') *A tunnel connects the two buildings.*

(c) *She is swimming right now.*

(c') *She swims well.*

(d) *I like the new album by Sleaford Mods.*

(d') *I'm liking the new album by Sleaford Mods so far.*

References

- Langacker, Ronald W. 2013. *Essentials of Cognitive Grammar*. Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press.
 - Section 5
- Langacker, Ronald W. 2008. *Cognitive Grammar. A Basic Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
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