

Adjectives and semantic composition

Christopher Potts
Stanford Linguistics

Linguist 130a/230a: Introduction to semantics and pragmatics



The typology

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- 1 An adjective ADJ is intersective iff, for all N, $\llbracket \text{ADJ N} \rrbracket = \llbracket \text{ADJ} \rrbracket \cap \llbracket \text{N} \rrbracket$

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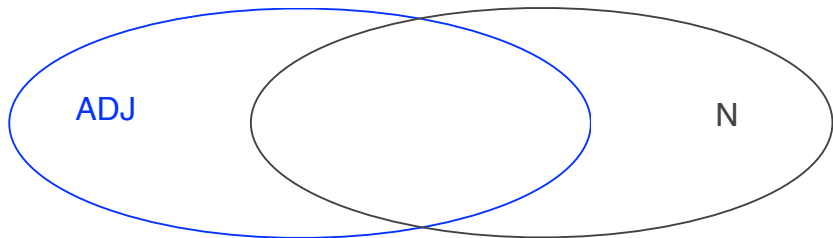
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ADJ

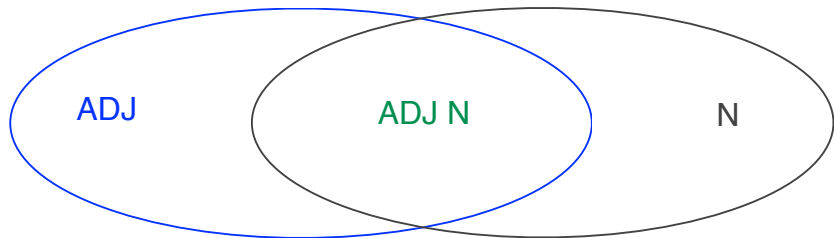
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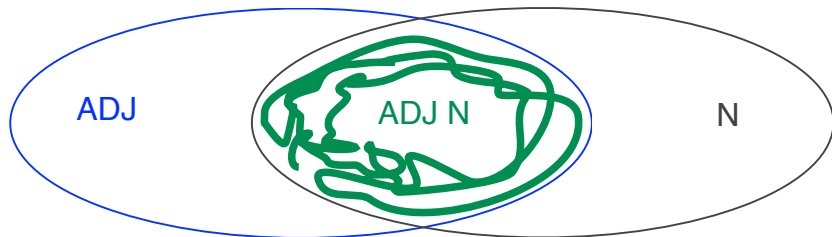
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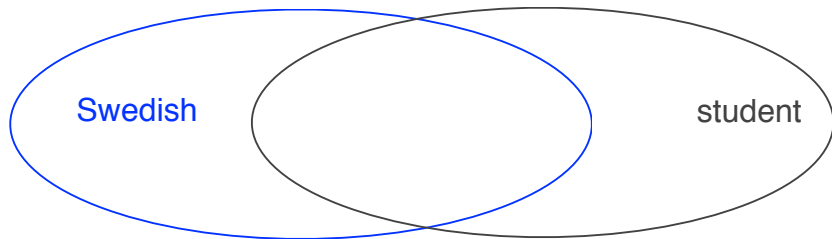
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Swedish

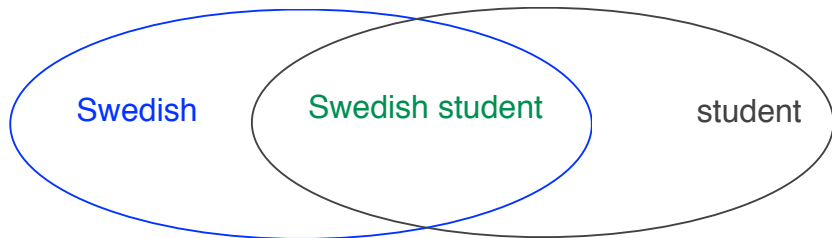
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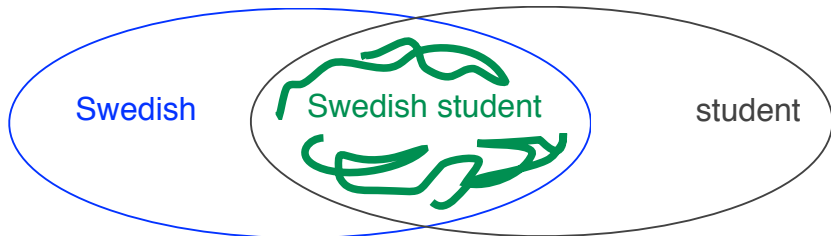
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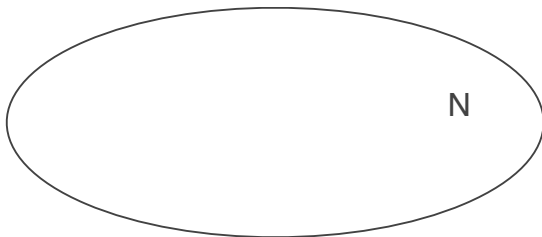


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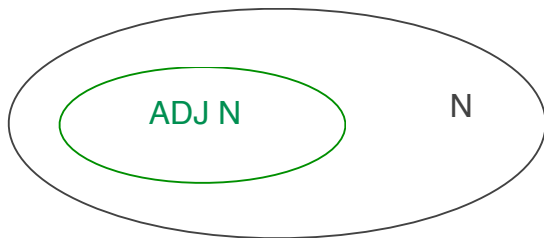
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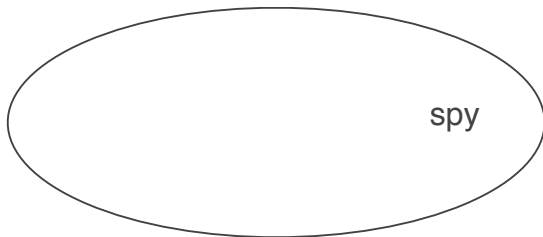
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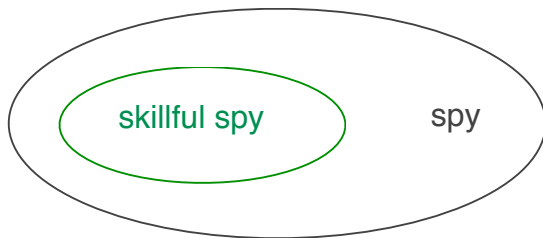
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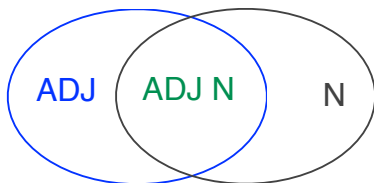
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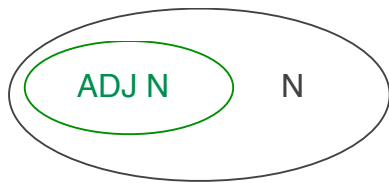
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Intersective



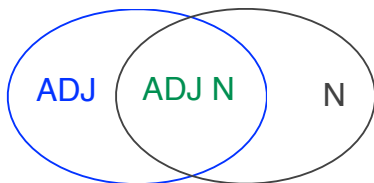
Subsective



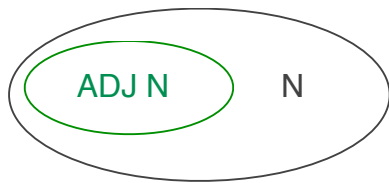
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Intersective



Subjective



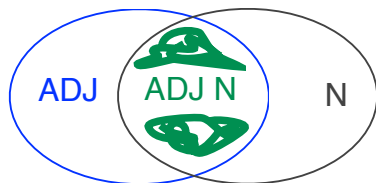
$$A \cap B \subseteq A$$

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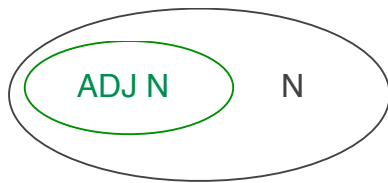
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Intersective



Subjective



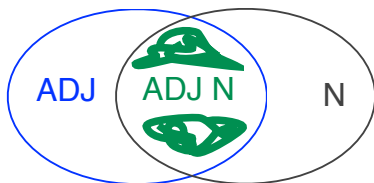
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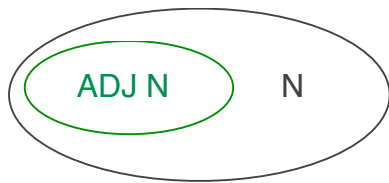
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Intersective



Subjective



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$$A \cap B \subseteq B$$

subjective

intersective

The typology

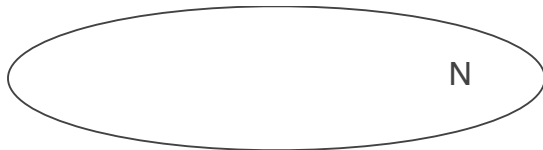
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subsective

intersective

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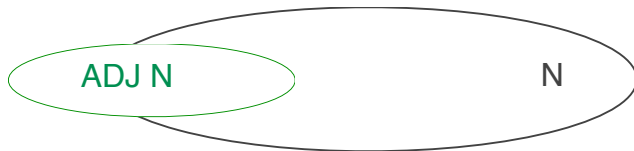


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intersective

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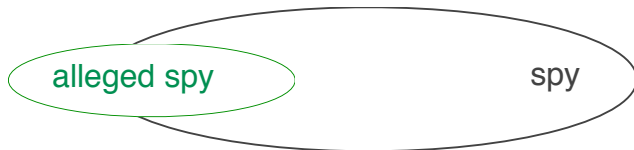


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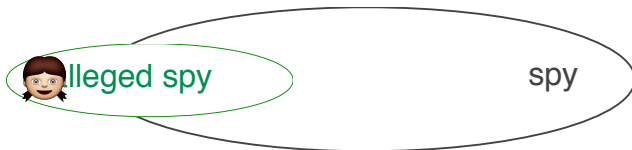


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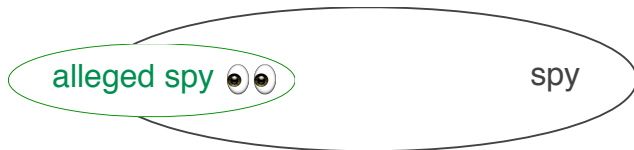


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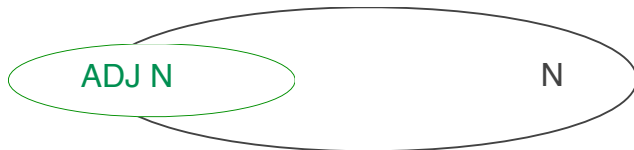


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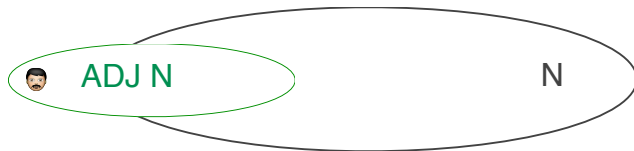


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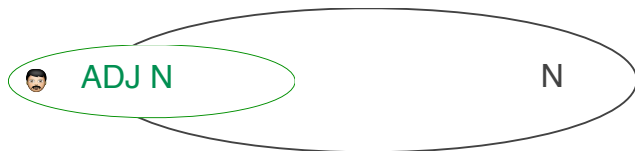


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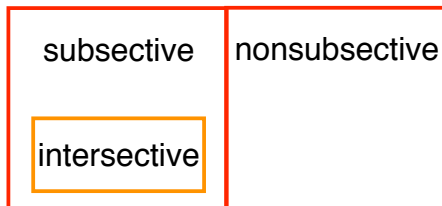
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subsective	nonsubsective
intersective	

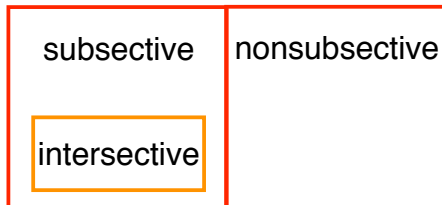
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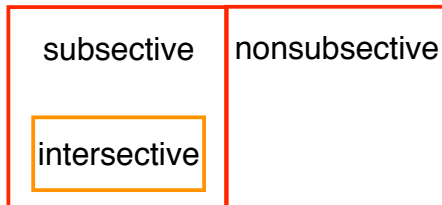
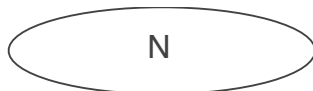
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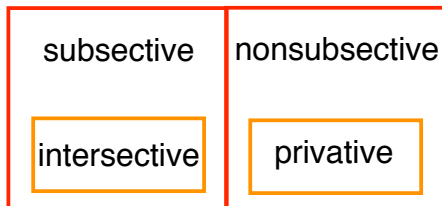
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non-student

student

subsective

nonsubsective

intersective

privative

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Nonsubsective



Privative



subsective

nonsubsective

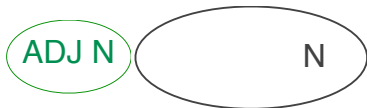
intersective

privative

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Privative

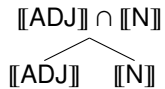


subsective	nonsubsective
intersective	privative

Interpretation

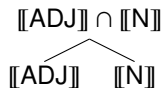
Interpretation

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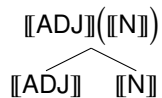


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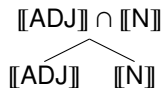


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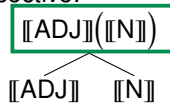


Interpretation

- 1 If ADJ is intersective:

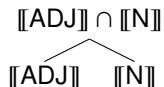


- 2 If ADJ is not intersective:

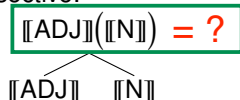


Interpretation

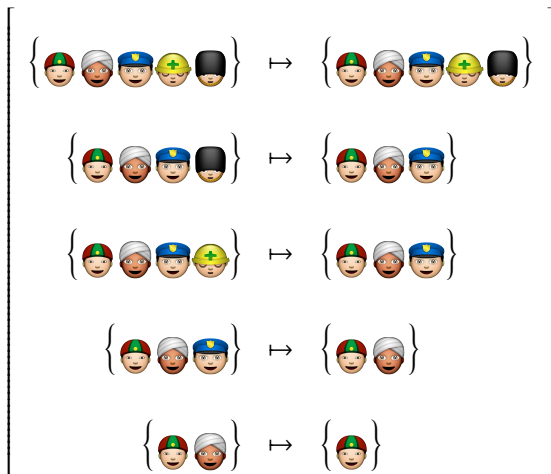
- 1 If ADJ is intersective:



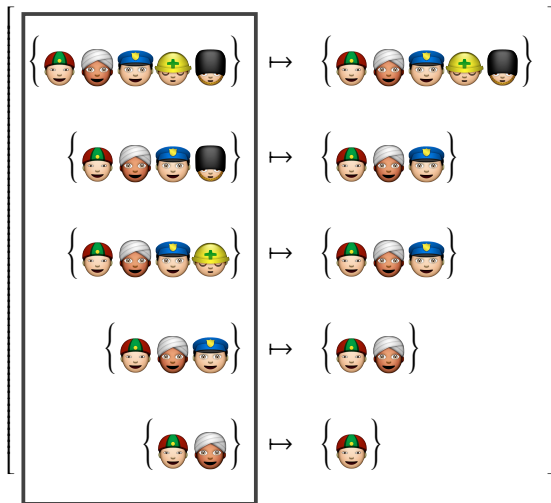
- 2 If ADJ is not intersective:



Adjectives as function

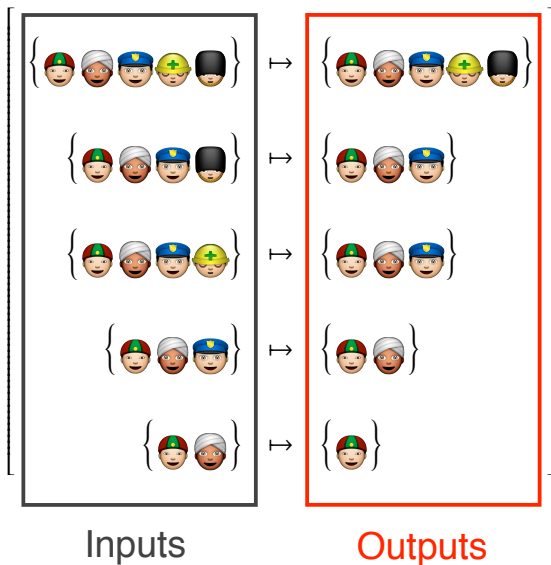


Adjectives as function

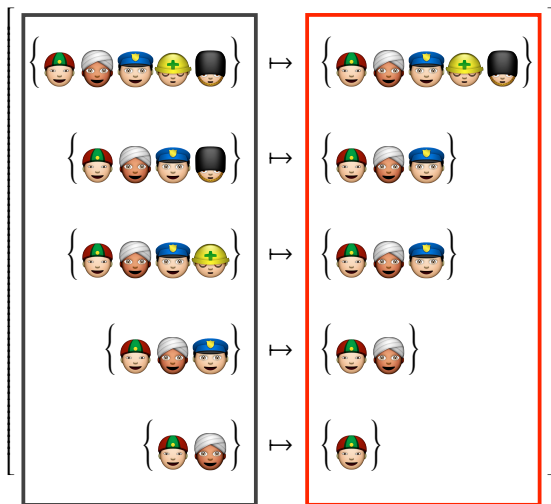


Inputs

Adjectives as function



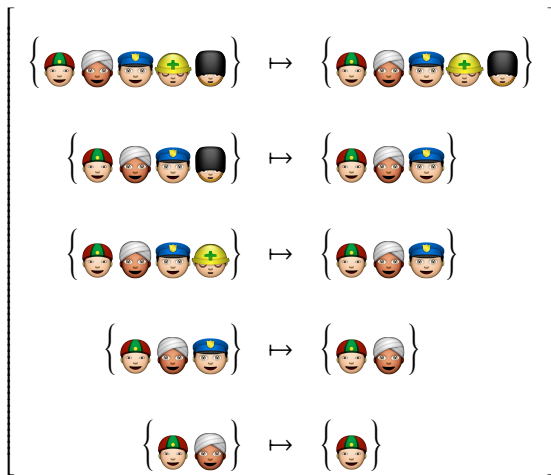
Adjectives as function



Inputs

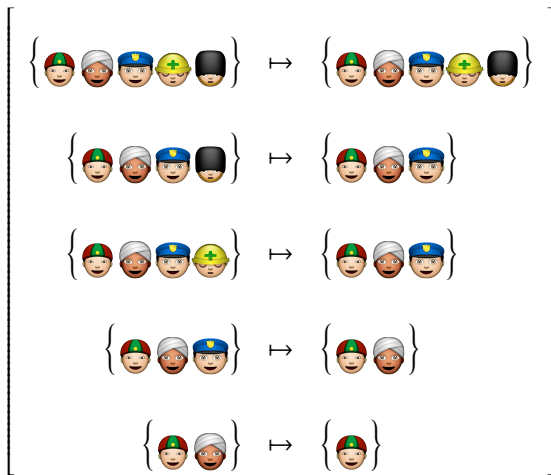
Modified N meanings

Adjectives as function



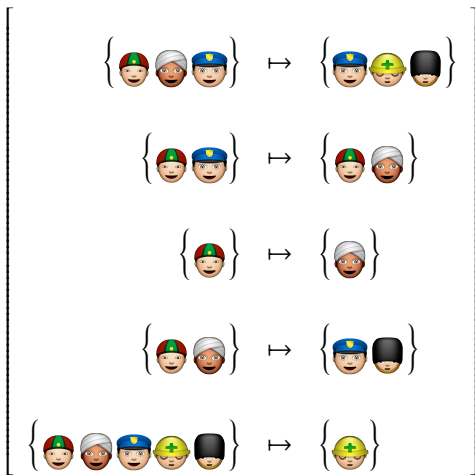
(subjective)

Adjectives as function



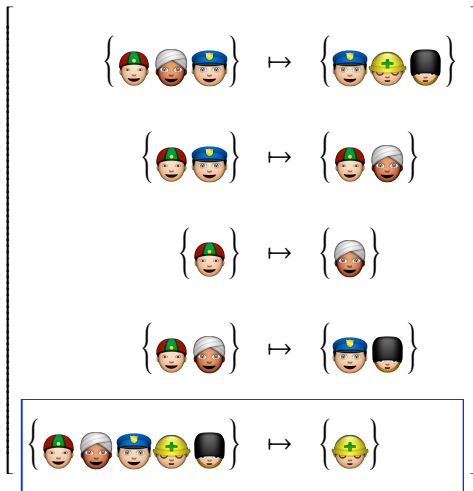
(subsecutive)

Adjectives as function



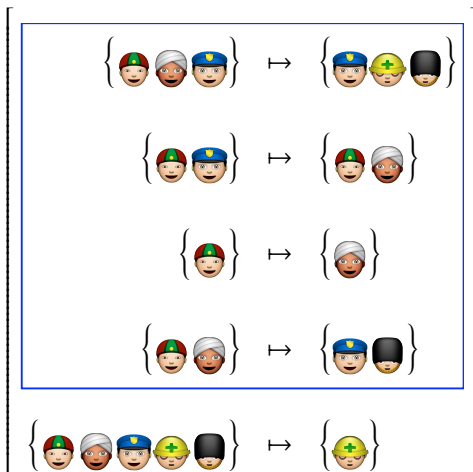
(nonsubsective)

Adjectives as function



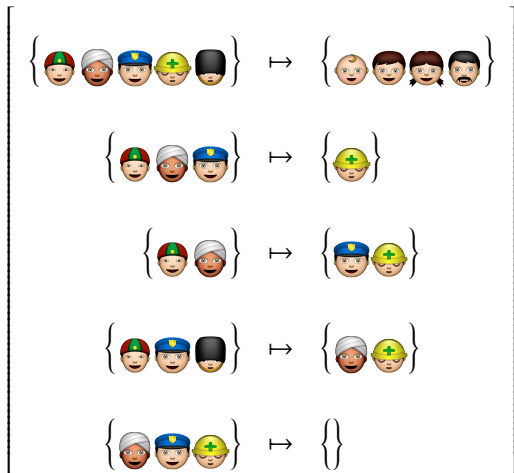
(nonsubsective)

Adjectives as function



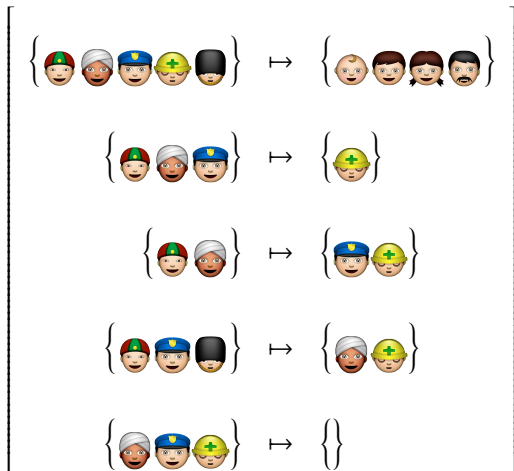
(nonsubsective)

Adjectives as function



(privative)

Adjectives as function



(privative)

The limits of the intersective analysis

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TRUE: Bart Simpson is a skillful skateboarder

The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

skillful skateboarder



The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a skillful skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

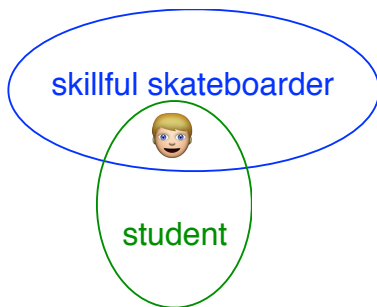
skillful skateboarder



The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

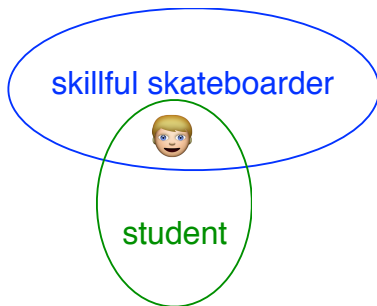


The limits of the interjective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

FALSE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

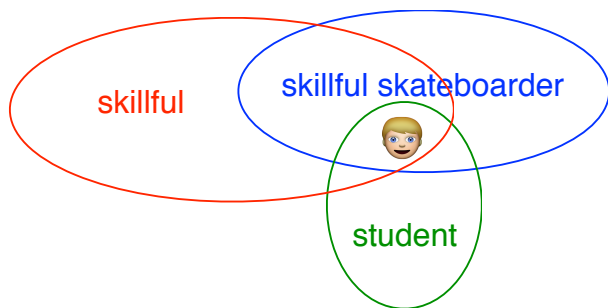


The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

FALSE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

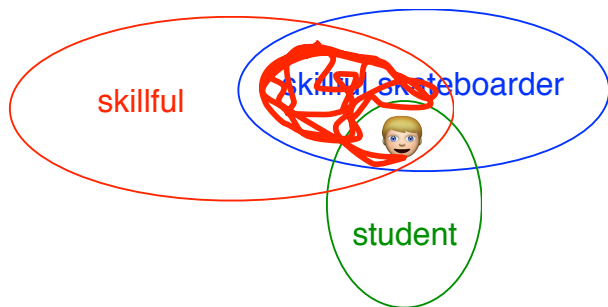


The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

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TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

FALSE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

skillful



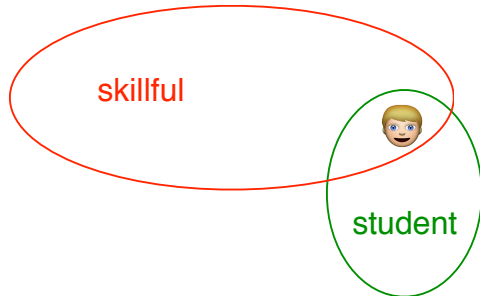
The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

FALSE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

TRUE: Bart is a **skillful** student.



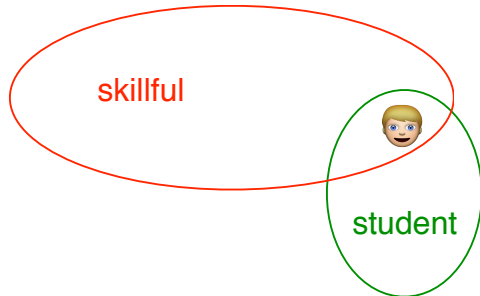
The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

FALSE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

TRUE: Bart is a **skillful** student.



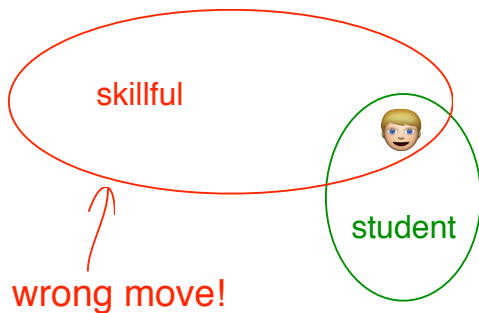
The limits of the intersective analysis

TRUE: Bart Simpson is a **skillful** skateboarder

TRUE: Bart is a student

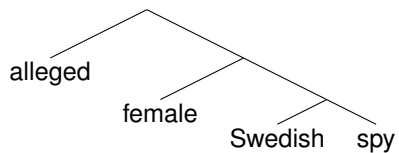
FALSE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

TRUE: Bart is a **skillful** student.

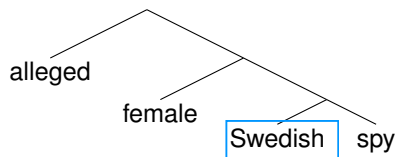


Compositionality

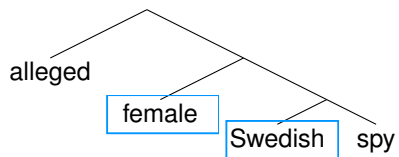
Compositionality



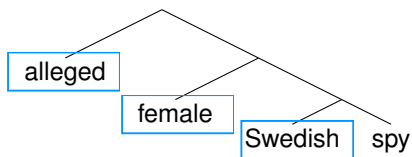
Compositionality



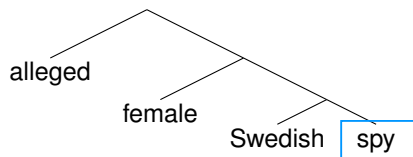
Compositionality



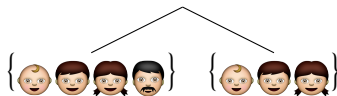
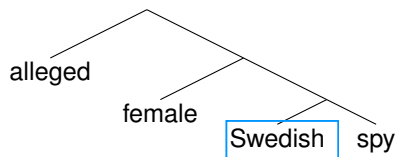
Compositionality



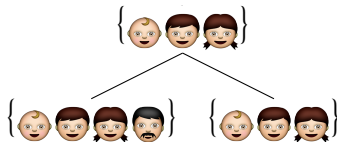
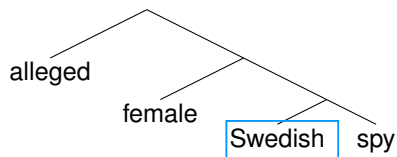
Compositionality



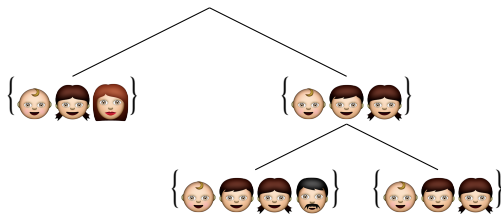
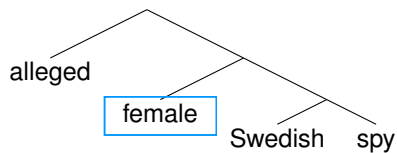
Compositionality



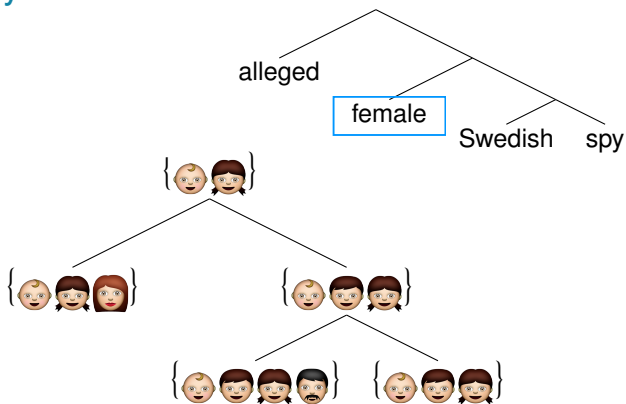
Compositionality



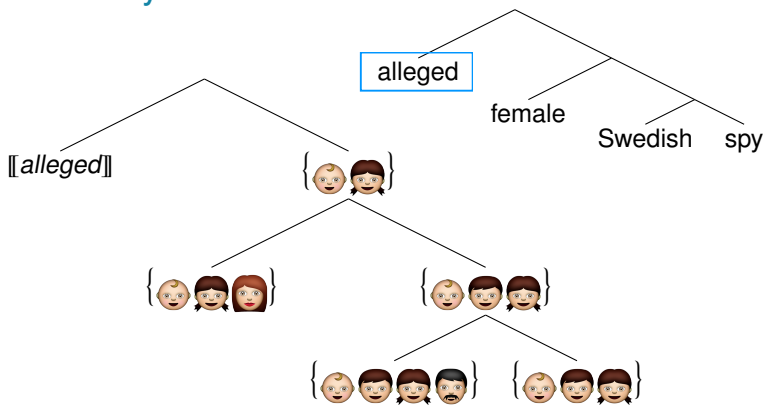
Compositionality



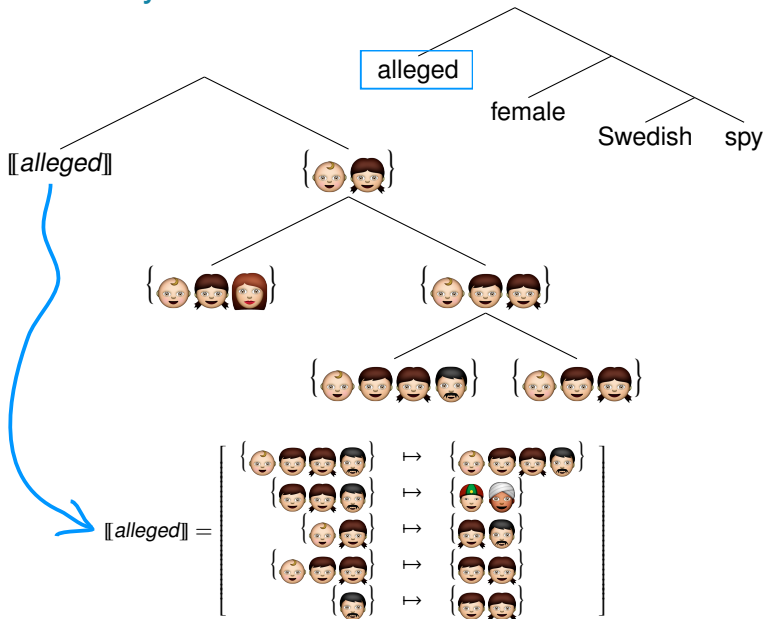
Compositionality



Compositionality



Compositionality



Compositionality

